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February 1995

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ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER ROASTED ALIVE!

PARENTAL ADVISORY

GRAPHIC PHOTOS INSIDE

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STANLEY WESTON
Founder

PUBLISHER.....Stuart M. Saks
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER.....Craig Peters
SENIOR EDITOR.....Bill Apter
MANAGING EDITOR.....David Lenker
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.....Brandi Mankiewicz
ART DIRECTOR.....Barbara Ann Brady
ART ASSOCIATES.....Tina Filice
.....Jon Gerner
.....Joseph Kalman
.....Alex Krasnopolsky
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR.....Bob Eddy
PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES.....Cliff Campo
.....Bernard V. Thompson III
.....Ron Frankhouser
SENIOR WRITERS.....David Rosenbaum
.....Andy Rodriguez
.....Chris Bernucca
.....Eddie Ellner
PHOTO EDITOR.....Jason Ross Lavin
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS.....Matt Brock
.....Elizabeth A. Hunter
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT.....Ed Emelett

VICE PRESIDENT/ MARKETING
David Gerhardt

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/CIRCULATION
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Robert Nucci

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
Nancy Parsons
P.O. Box 910
Fort Washington, PA 19034

PHOTO CREDITS
CENTERFOLD:
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between falls

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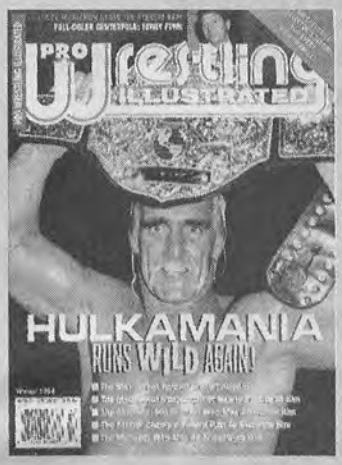
"HULKAMANIA," BABY!



In our special Winter 1994 issue, we presented a special 11-page look at how "Hulkamania" is running wild again, this time in WCW! Our readers had some interesting things to say about it.

"I'm still amazed that Hulk Hogan was able to win that title after all that happened during the week leading up to it," wrote Drew Jones of San Antonio, Texas. "He had to admit in a court of law that he used steroids for years, then put that behind him and wrestle the match of his life a few days later. What an athlete!"

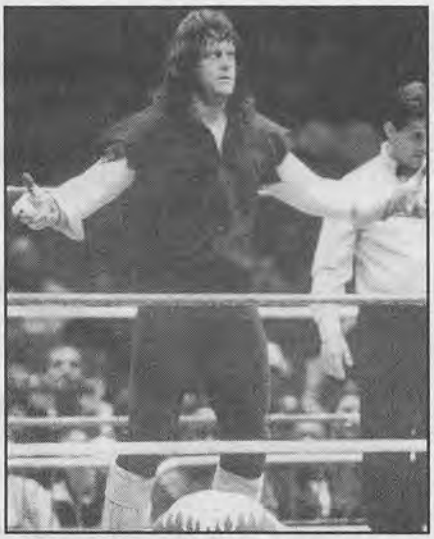
"I'm sick of hearing about Hulk Hogan," wrote Norris Wayman of Chicago. "I want to see him defend the title two, three, or four times a week before I jump on his bandwagon. I doubt if that will happen."

"I can't believe some of his friends, like Sting, now want a shot at him," wrote Joe Regan of Peoria, Illinois. "It won't bother him. He always finds a way to win!"

A FINE 500

Kudos to your 1994 "*PWI* 500." As a regular follower of the 500, I can definitely say this was the best yet. I can't wait for next year's. Long live Bret Hart and his No. 1 status!

SARA LONARDO
East Greenwich, RI



The Undertaker's ranking was the only thing about the "*PWI* 500" that didn't please reader Jesse Maldonado, who says Undertaker shouldn't have been rated below Jerry Lawler.

NO, AN *AWESOME* 500

I just read your "*PWI* 500" (December 1994), and it was awesome. Some new wrestlers were listed, especially those from Mexico and AAA. It was just and right to have Bret Hart at the top of the list again after he beat Yokozuna for the WWF World title and kept Owen Hart and others at bay. But I do have one disagreement: Is Jerry Lawler (number 16) better than The Undertaker (number 23)? I don't think so. Can't wait for the next "*PWI* 500."

JESSE MALDONADO
Hammond, IN

Just because WWF World Women's champion Alundra Blayze didn't wrestle any men in 1994 doesn't mean she shouldn't be ranked in the "*PWI* 500," argues reader Robin Nagot.

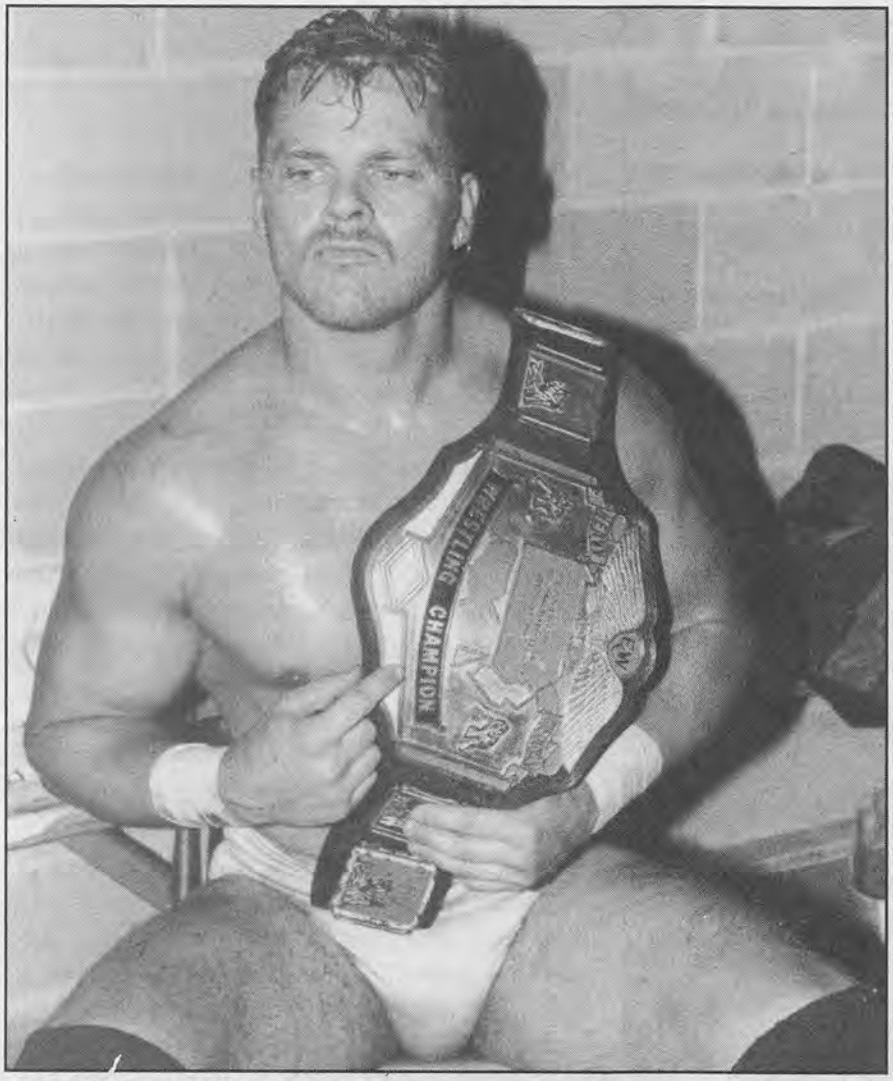
BRING ON BLAYZE!

I think that Alundra Blayze should be ranked in the "*PWI* 500." She beat Luna Vachon, Bull Nakano, Heidi Lee Morgan, and others. I think it's sexist to say that women have to beat men to be on the list. Do the men on the list have to beat women? I think not.

ROBIN NAGOT
Northford, CT

THE WORLD OF ECW

I can already hear you at *PWI* not recognizing the ECW title as a world title. I think that would be a mistake on your part. What makes a world champion: where he defends his title, or who he defends it against? In WCW, Hulk Hogan's main challengers are Ric Flair and Big Van Vader. In ECW, Shane Douglas' challengers are Sabu, 911, Terry Funk,



Shane Douglas' ECW title should be considered a *world* title, says reader Patrick Grady. He argues that Douglas has defended the belt against more quality opponents than WCW World champ Hulk Hogan.

Chris Benoit, and Cactus Jack.

It's not location that makes a champion a world champion, but the talent he defends it against. And ECW has the better talent.

PATRICK GRADY
Longport, NJ

NOT A HOGAN FAN!

I just got a chance to take in a card on WCW's most recent tour of Germany. I have seen their wrestlers twice before, but this evening in Munich was very boring. The only match that was worth the money was Sting vs. Steve Austin. Sting was great! He showed everything: skill, power, technical moves. Austin was great, too.

But the tour was called "Hulkamania '94," and Hogan's match with Ric Flair was as "exciting" as most of the other bouts. When the matches were over, I heard some young fans who had never seen wrestling before talking about the evening. They came to the same conclusion I did: Sting was the best. Even Hulk Hogan wasn't as good, and that's saying a lot!

Hulk, this is not the WWF! WCW fans come to the arena to watch *wrestling* instead of a champ losing a belt because of a little bearded man with an exploding camera.

ISA NACHTIGALL
Donaustauf, Germany

☎ TO THE GLUE FACTORY

I can't believe that Public Enemy would have the nerve to vandalize the Funk brothers' ranch ("Spraypaint My Horses? I'll Lynch You!", December 1994). If Rocco Rock and Johnny Grunge think Terry and Dory are formidable opponents, just wait till they

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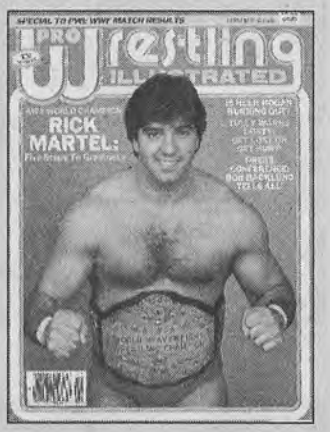
10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



The cover of the February 1985 issue featured Rick Martel, with the accompanying headline, "AWA World Champion Rick Martel: Five Steps To Greatness." Martel had vowed to bring nothing but honor to his title. To him, that meant defending it against all challengers, being honest about everything he did, going wherever the fans wanted to see him, and wrestling the world champions in the NWA and WWF.

The centerfold showcased Magnum T.A., then the North American heavyweight champion. Magnum had won the belt from Mr. Wrestling II, once one of his best friends. It was later revealed that Mr. Wrestling II instigated his feud with Magnum in an effort to make his friend a better man and better wrestler. He was in the midst of defending the belt against Butch Reed, Terry Taylor, and others.

Elsewhere in the magazine: Bob Backlund talked to Senior Editor Bill Apter in "Press Conference" and said he never lost the WWF World title because no one pinned him or forced him to submit ... Friends of Hulk Hogan expressed concern about the WWF World champ in "Is The 'Hulkster' In Danger Of Burning Out?" ... Tully Blanchard warned Dusty Rhodes that if he didn't stay away from him, he would be risking a serious injury.

Magazine availability: Limited.

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

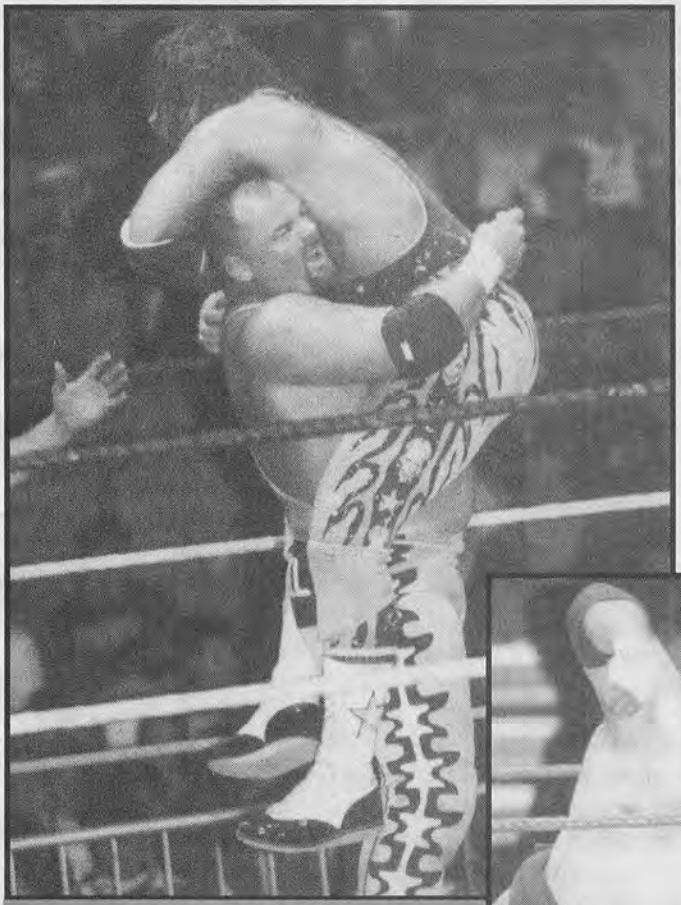
AFTER BEATING HIS younger brother **Owen** in match after match this summer, WWF World champion **Bret Hart** has a slew of new contenders to worry about. First and foremost is his brother-in-law **Jim Neidhart**. "The Anvil" has received more than his share of title matches this fall—many with Owen in his corner—but hasn't been able to win the belt.

Also looking for title shots are **King Kong Bundy** and **Bob Backlund**. The man we used to know as the "All-American Boy" has shocked fans recently with his attacks on WWF employee **Lou Gianfriddo** and Backlund's former manager, **Arnold Skaaland**. Both have felt the effects of Backlund's chicken wing.

The former WWF World champ insists there is no counter for the hold and vows to retire if anyone can break it. **Lex Luger** challenged Backlund on a recent edition of *WWF Monday Night Raw*, but WWF officials kept them apart.

Razor Ramon continues to reign as Intercontinental champion, but he also has several new challengers on his trail. Owen Hart is trying his best to take the gold away from the "Bad Guy," as is **Yokozuna**, though Yokozuna is facing a much more grave task on many WWF cards.

The Samoan is mired in a feud with **The Undertaker**. Undertaker remembers how Yokozuna shoved him into a casket at the 1994 Royal Rumble. It's no secret that Yokozuna is terrified of caskets. That's too bad because he's seen the inside of several after losing casket matches to The Undertaker this fall.



WWF World champ Bret Hart spent most of the summer of 1994 battling his brother Owen. Now that feud has calmed down and the "Hitman" is battling his brother-in-law Jim Neidhart in a series of bouts.

The Yokozuna-Undertaker feud is far from over. The 568-pound Samoan is terrified of caskets, but nonetheless agreed to a series of casket matches. He may live to regret that decision.

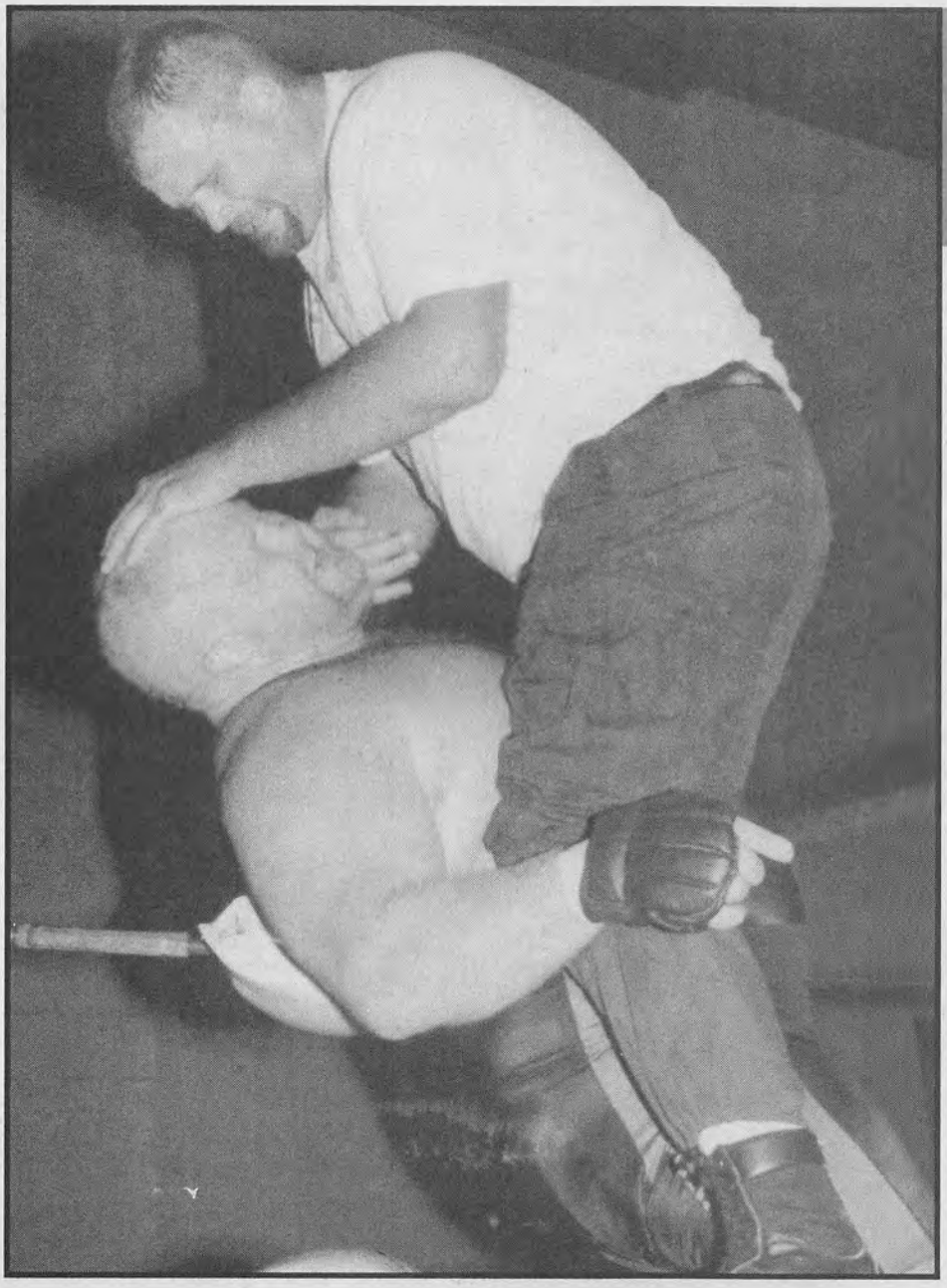
By now, you've probably read all about the friction between WWF World tag team champs **Diesel** and **Shawn Michaels**. If things weren't bad enough for them already, now Michaels has apparently suffered an arm injury. The "Heartbreak Kid" showed up at a card in Baltimore wearing a cast on his right arm. Diesel says he is willing to defend the tag title by himself—in handicap matches.

One of the teams looking to wrest the title from Diesel and Michaels is **The Headshrinkers**, but not **Samu** and **Fatu**. Samu has been out of action for a while and **The Barbarian** has replaced him. **Capt. Lou Albano** and **Afa** have made him an honorary Headshrinker, calling him **Sionne**.

The big question in WCW is when will **Big Van Vader** get his shot at **Hulk Hogan**. The "Hulkster" has looked great against **Ric Flair**, but you have to wonder how he'll do when he goes toe-to-toe with someone as huge and intimidating as Vader. The power-bomber promises not only to take Hogan's title, but to also end his career!

Before he gets Hogan, however, Vader still must deal with **The Guardian Angel**, who has wrestled Vader better than he expected.

(Continued on page 54)



Big Van Vader may want to get his hands on WCW World champion Hulk Hogan, but for now he is getting all he can handle from The Guardian Angel, who has wrestled very well against him.

from the desk of...
Stuart M. Saks

When Bob Backlund was WWF World champion, his image was as clean as any wrestler who has ever stepped into the ring. Yet, there was always a stink around him. Cigar smoke. No, Backlund didn't smoke; he's probably never even had tobacco between his lips. But the man behind him did.

That man was always behind him. Or next to him. Or in front of him, telling him the things he needed to know to keep the prized championship belt around his waist. Backlund may have had his basic training on the North Dakota State wrestling team. He may have had his professional training from the one of the all-time masters, Eddie Sharkey. But he became a champion—and a man—under the watchful eye (and cloud of cigar smoke) of Arnold Skaaland.

It was the man they called the "Golden Boy" who nurtured a young Backlund, who gave him the benefit of the knowledge of his wrestling career and his 11 years of championship management with the greatest of the greats, Bruno Sammartino. It's interesting that while the relationship between Bruno and Skaaland was one of brother to brother, the relationship between Backlund and Skaaland was one of son to father. To say they were close would be a gross understatement. What these men experienced was something I have never seen between a manager and his wrestler: love.

But the same love that made Backlund the perfect student to the game's master strategist also caused their relationship to come to a tragic end a little more than a decade ago.

It was Skaaland's deep concern for Backlund's health that prompted him to toss in the towel during Backlund's title defense against The Iron Sheik at Madison Square Garden in December of 1983. And now, with so much time having passed and so many people having forgotten the details of what happened back then, he has found a way to blame an innocent man for

(Continued on page 56)

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in focus

By Craig Peters

THE "PWI 500": REACTION

While it may not be as 100 percent accurate as we'd always like, while it may have its bugs that are yet to be worked out, while errors and omissions may find their way into it each year, the "*PWI* 500" is an overwhelming success in at least one thing: generating discussion and debate.

In this issue's "Press Conference," you can read Bret Hart's comments about his second number one rating in a row. Here, you can read some reactions about the other 499 listings—and some responses from the editors of *PWI*:

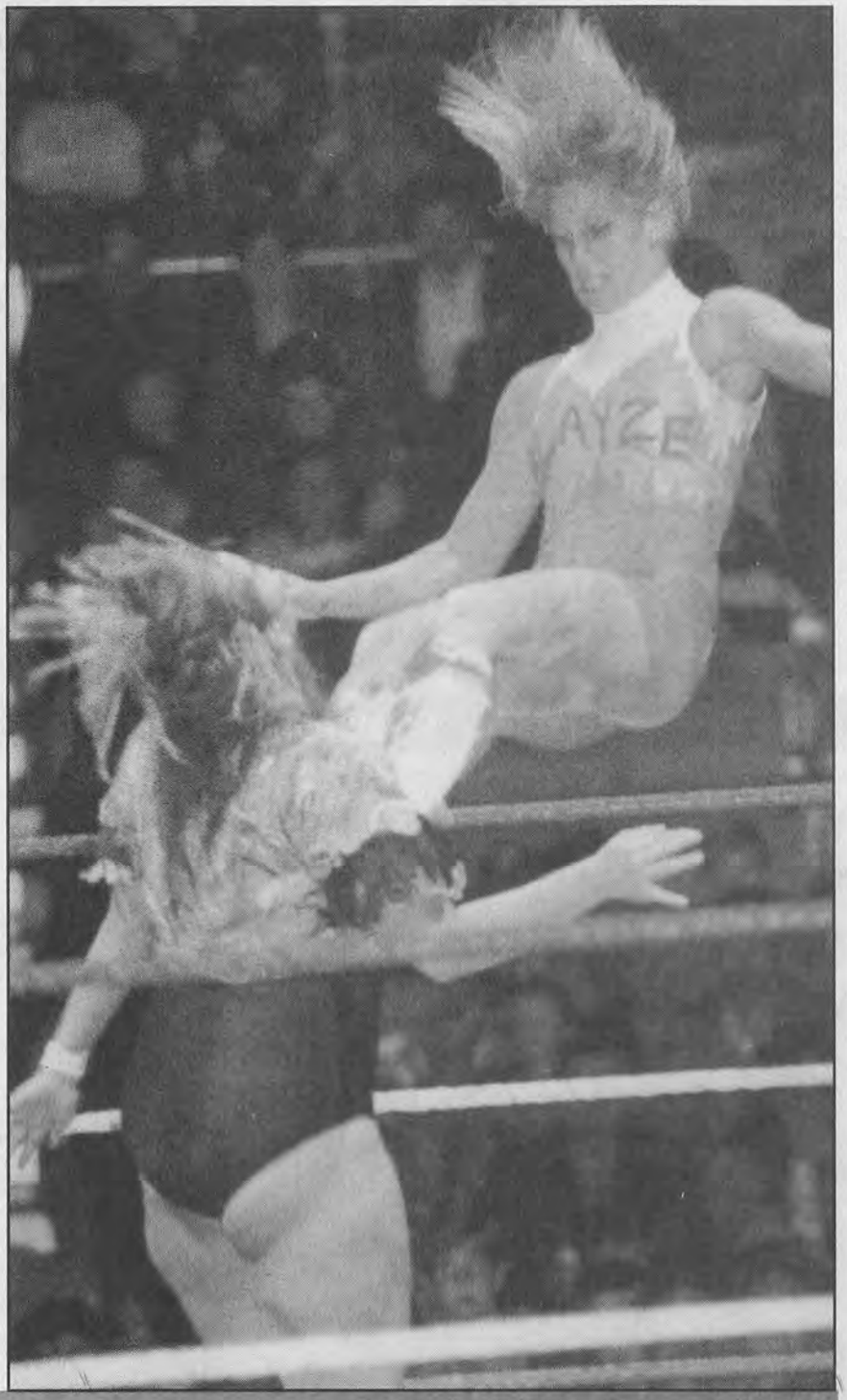
I congratulate PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED *on another fine "500,"* writes Bonnie McFadden of Philadelphia. *I have all four installments of this fine feature, and this recent one was the best yet! I salute the fact that you're including more foreign wrestlers and independent wrestlers and ranking them higher. I was particularly pleased to see Sabu at number 12; he deserves to be in the top 10, but I think your ranking of him was fair. I think your top 10 itself was pretty good, but I would have shuffled the rankings around: Shawn Michaels, who you had fifth, should have been second; Hogan, who you had second, should have been ninth or 10th.*

Eddie Ellner responds: *In my opinion, Hogan shouldn't have been on the list at all; he was barely active, and one title victory shouldn't automatically put him at number two. It was a disgrace. Meanwhile, the fact that a true ring artist like Sabu climbed from 56 to 12 over the past year shows that there are still one or two faint embers of insight smoldering among the editorial powers that be. I can only hope that those embers are nurtured into full-fledged flames over the coming 12 months. And if they aren't, there's always* ***Wrestling Bad Guys*** *magazine.*

One of my favorite parts of the "500," writes Tony Macaro of Brooklyn, New York, *are the names of wrestlers I've never heard of in the bottom reaches of the listing. Hollywood Hubie? Suicide Samson? Caveman Broda? Knuckles Nelson? I only wish you printed photos of all of these guys!*

Bill Apter responds: *I'm told that next year, we may be devoting the entire magazine to the "500" rather than just 20 pages or so. If that's the case, Tony, you can bet we'll be dusting off those shots of Sunset Sam McGraw and Lord Zoltan!*

Sabu moved up 44 spots in this year's "*PWI* 500," but at least one of our readers thinks the manic Bombay native belongs in the top 10!



Senior Editor Bill Apter's remark that WWF World Women's champion belonged in the "*PWI* 500" has sparked quite a controversy. One reader says Apter was way off-base.

I just finished reading your December issue, writes Adam Collyer of Bridgewater, New Jersey, *and I'm shocked at the statement Senior Editor Bill Apter made when he said that Alundra Blayze should have been included in the "**PWI** 500"! Although I am a huge Blayze fan and have enjoyed her success, I have to agree with Stu Saks' point. Unless she steps into the ring and defeats a man, like Miss Texas did last year, she should not be ranked. Not to sound like a sexist or anything, but just because someone has credentials and potential, like Alundra, she does not deserve to be ranked until she defeats somebody in the "**PWI** 500." Case closed!*

Bill Apter responds: *What if she were to defeat Miss Texas?*

My favorite part of the "500" listing are the 200s and the 300s, writes Bill McAnally of Los Angeles. *To me, that's the region that includes yesterday's fading stars on their way down, and tomorrow's rising stars on the way up. Take Sgt. Slaughter at 238, for instance; there's a guy with nowhere to go but down. Meanwhile, Jamie Dundee, at 243, is on his way to the top, attitude and all. Thanks for another great issue.*

Jamie Dundee responds: *You better believe I'm headed for the top! In another year or two, I'll be right where Bret Hart is now: at the top of the "**PWI** 500"! Don't believe me? Just you wait and see, baby! If this joker from Los Angeles knows of my greatness ... well, it's only a matter of time before I rule the entire wrestling world!*

Dave Sears of Miami, Florida, writes with this pointed question: *Mohammed the Butcher at number 321? Are you guys nuts? He died early last year! What gives?!*

Bill Apter responds: *Actually, Dave, we knew about Mohammed's death; in fact, we reported on it in the pages of **PWI Weekly**. But due to a computer error, whereby last year's rankings for the "500" were held and collated for the ... oh, let's face it, you don't care about the explanation. The fact remains: We screwed up. Then again, every election day it seems like one or two dead people are elected to local office somewhere in the country. These things happen. But if Mohammed appears in **next** year's "500" ...*

*I have an idea regarding your excellent "**PWI** 500,"* writes Ken Baker of Dallas, Texas. *How about expanding the feature to make it the "**PWI** 1000"? Now **that** would be something!*

Stu Saks responds: *Aaaarrrrrgggghhh!* □

win lose or draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

THERE IS A story on page 28 of this magazine detailing problems between Marcus Bagwell and The Patriot, the WCW World tag team champions. 2 Cold Scorpio hasn't read the story, but he's been keeping his eye on WCW.

"Bagwell and Patriot, hmmmmmm?" he questioned. "My congratulations to them, but that isn't going to stop me from going after those belts. I had a piece of that title once, and I liked it a lot."

Scorpio, if you remember, held that title with Bagwell for 20 days in October 1993. Now he wants a shot at his ex-partner. In spite of all he accomplished with Bagwell, he wants another WCW tag team title, even if it means going through Bagwell to get it.

"Why should I feel any sense of loyalty toward Marcus?" he said. "We're not teammates anymore. I decided I want another chance to be a tag team champion. It's nothing personal. Marcus wouldn't hesitate to do the same thing."

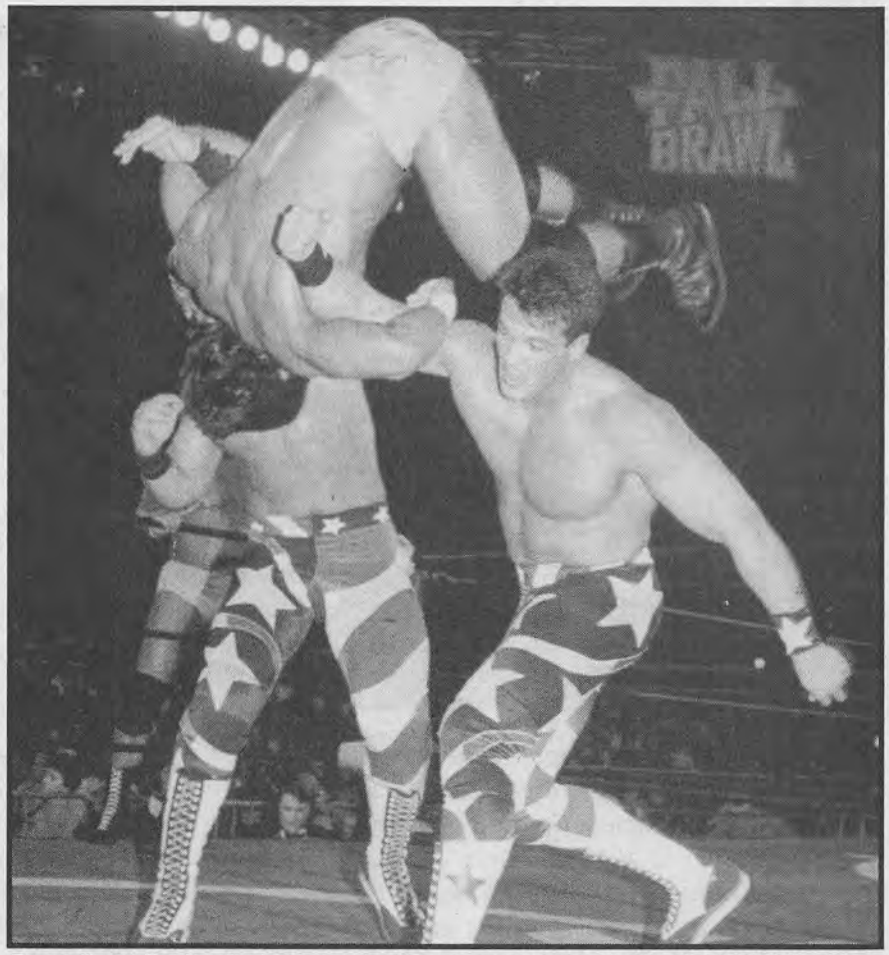
By all means, Scorpio has the right to pursue any title that catches his fancy. But is he right in doing it this way? The talented high-flyer left WCW for the independent circuit to improve his skills as a singles competitor. At the time, he said it was time to bring his and Bagwell's partnership to an amicable close and to pursue other opportunities.

Now he is talking about returning to WCW and targeting Bagwell. He doesn't hate Bagwell or anything, but Bagwell does what he wants. Scorpio tells me it is nothing personal. In wrestling, though, things have a way of becoming very personal very fast.

"You know, I've been thinking about how to approach this," Scorpio said, mulling over the possibility of a confrontation with Bagwell. "As I've said, I don't have anything against Marcus. It's not like we talk every day, but I still consider him a friend. But I expect him to be desperate to hold on to that title. I know that he and Patriot worked hard to beat Orndorff and Roma. He wants to prove they deserve that championship.

"I have to prove I deserve it just as

(Continued on page 58)



Bagwell and Patriot double-team Paul Roma en route to winning the WCW World tag team title. 2 Cold Scorpio is now searching for the right tag team partner to challenge the new champions.

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1) Nikita Koloff
2) Dusty Rhodes
3) Michael Hayes
4) Stan Hansen

True or False: Dusty Rhodes was once managed by rulebreaking manager Gary Hart.
1) True
2) False

How did Ric Flair severely injure his back in October 1975?
1) Airplane crash
2) Ring injury
3) Automobile accident
4) None of the above

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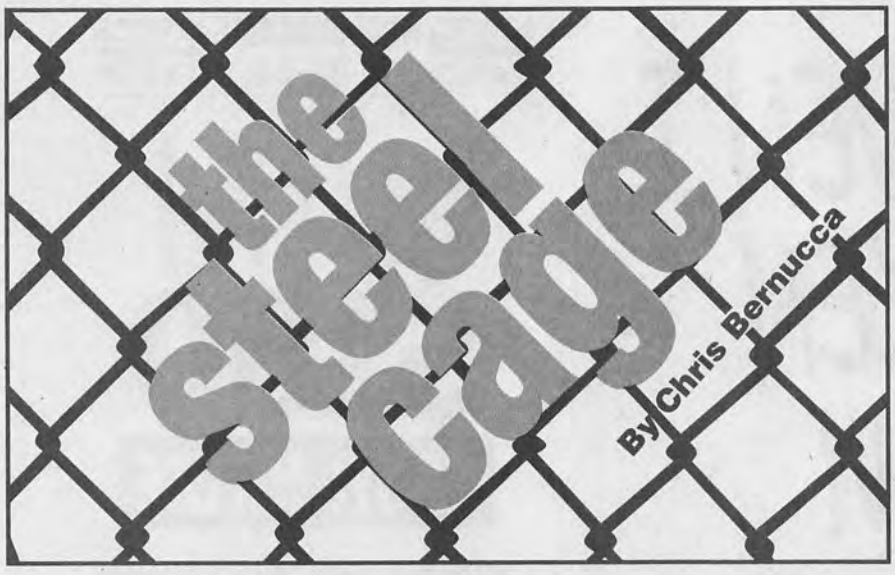

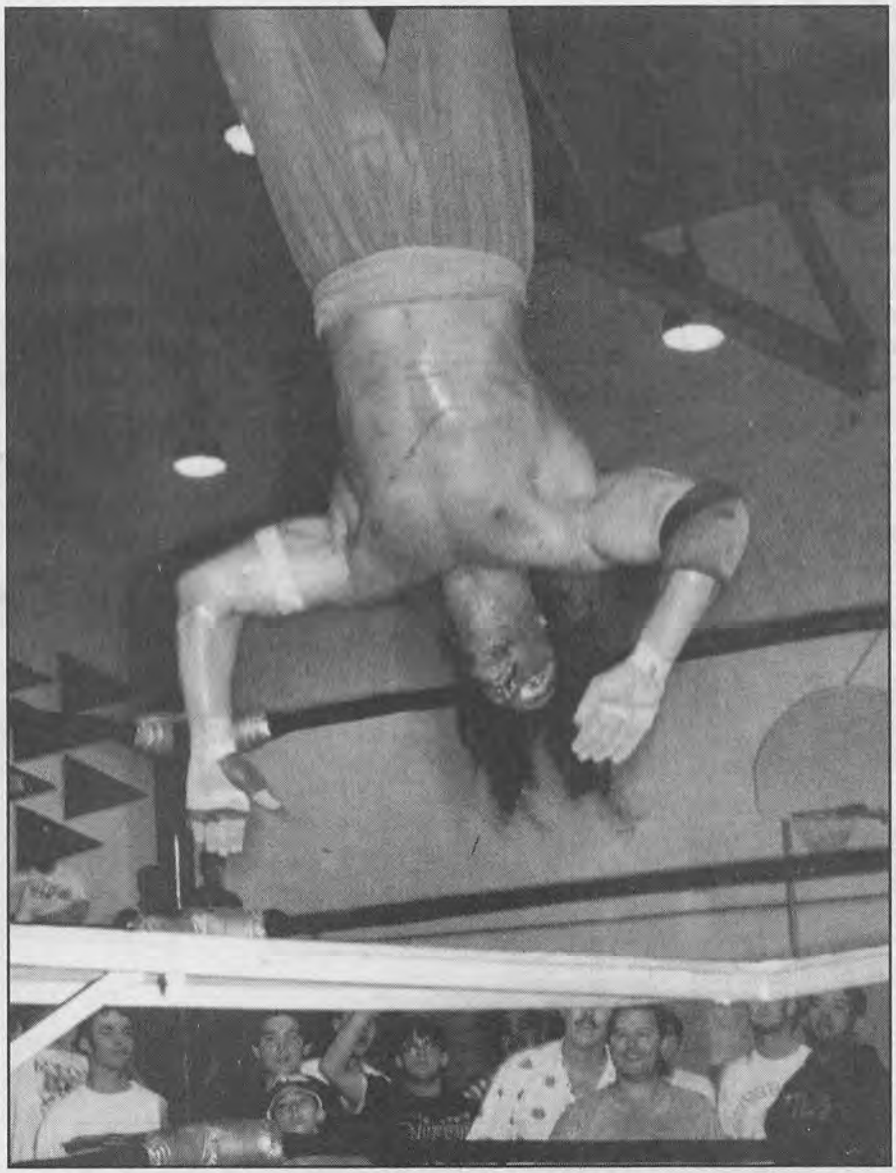

Rumor has it that Sabu will be shattering tables with moonsaults in the WWF soon. Chris Bernucca thinks signing the manic madman would be a good move by the WWF, even if the established WWF stars might not appreciate his style.

MINDLESS MUSINGS. Once again, pressed by a deadline and devoid of ideas for a full-length column, our intrepid writer resorts to a collection of items in order to fill space and keep his editors happy. To wit:

NEWS ITEM: Sabu to join WWF?

The best wrestler some people still have never heard of could become the sport's biggest star. Sabu, who is perhaps the most reckless wrestler in the world, is rumored to be heading to the WWF. Sabu is one of those wrestlers who could bring sweeping change to a federation that badly needs an injection of adrenaline.

What exactly is a Sabu? Well, he has made a name for himself on the independent circuit and in Japan with his soaring style and his psychotic behavior. The only thing that pleases him more than executing a moonsault off the top rope to a foe on a ringside table is wiping blood from his face after executing the move. This unique style has taken its toll on Sabu, who weighs a mere 220 pounds and is quickly becoming one big chunk of walking scar tissue.

The other wrestler with experience in either the WWF or WCW who can be compared to Sabu is Cactus Jack. Unlike most WWF and WCW wrestlers, Jack and Sabu don't approach each match with an eye on their schedule or wondering how it will affect their place in the ratings.

That approach doesn't sit well with some of the established stars of the WWF, where image is everything. Most of the federation's champions and title contenders carefully select their opponents in order to remain at or near the top. "We don't need any maniacs here," one fan favorite said. "I've got a family to support and I can't waste my time with a guy on a suicide mission."

The WWF doesn't have anyone like Sabu. He is skilled and crazy, a lethal combination in this sport. What happens in the first few weeks of Sabu's stint in the federation (if it ever takes place) would tell us a lot about his long-term future with the group. Following several preliminary matches, he may find mid-card competitors unwilling to take him on because (a) a loss to a newcomer is devastating to one's standing in the rankings, and (b) the fear of injury against an unknown quantity is very real.

I hope Sabu signs with the WWF and gets a fair shot. He is one of the most exciting wrestlers of our time and deserves an opportunity to test himself against the best in the world. But I have a feeling that he isn't going to get that opportunity, simply because he doesn't toe the party line.

***

NEWS ITEM: Ric Flair puts it all on the line ... again!

Apparently, once is not enough for Flair, who promised to retire if he lost to WCW World champion Hulk Hogan at Halloween Havoc. By the time you read this, you'll probably be lamenting the end of the career of the greatest wrestler of all-time.

Flair defied all the odds and silenced the skeptics late last year when he beat Big Van Vader in a match with a similar self-imposed stipulation. The "Nature Boy" emerged from that bout with his career intact and the championship belt around his waist.

But things are a little different this time around. Flair and Vader hadn't faced each other often prior to that match. This will be Flair's umpteenth WCW title match against Hogan, and in case you haven't been keeping score, Flair's record isn't exactly sparkling.

He has looked old and tired against Hogan, who deserves plenty of credit for refocusing his energies on the sport after making many of us believe he was nothing more than a washed-up movie star.

Flair shocked the wrestling world with his victory over Vader, but Vader got the better of him in the rematch at SuperBrawl IV until interference turned that bout into a circus. Rick Steamboat took Flair to the limit at Spring Stampede, then was denied a rematch at Slamboree, the next pay-per-view. Hogan only did what anyone of his skill level was capable of doing: He got his title match against Flair at Bash at the Beach and won the belt.

Even if Ric Flair does have to retire for good after Halloween Havoc, he has nothing to be ashamed of, Bernucca argues. He says as Flair got older, it became evident that the competition was catching up to him.

This is not a hatchet job against Flair. He can still win matches against top-notch competition. But as he gets older and the competition gets younger, bigger, and stronger, it is increasingly evident that he can lose to them, too. The bet here is that Flair's illustrious career comes to an end with a final loss to Hogan.

It's been a great run, Ric. You will always be the man.

***

NEWS ITEM: The Gangstas take over Smoky Mountain Wrestling.

Sadly, the double-standard of free speech with regard to race relations in America continues with this tag team, whose racist statements make the Ku Klux Klan look like an affirmative action group.

Smoky Mountain Wrestling is taking steps to tone down the act of Mustafa Saed and New Jack, but for all the wrong reasons. Apparently, some television affiliates are threatening to drop SMW from their program schedule, which would cost the federation badly needed revenue. I would like to know why Saed and Jack weren't fired on the spot, like I was three years ago for accidentally allowing a racist term describing Hispanics to reach the wire of a major news service.

I'm sorry, but 400 years of black oppression don't excuse the racist statements being made by The Gangstas. If we are truly striving for racial equality, then Saed and Jack must be held just as accountable as I was. And in case you were wondering if your favorite columnist is a racist, consider this: In April, my girlfriend and I are expecting a baby ... who will be half-Mexican. □

off the top rope

by Eddie Ellner

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

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(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

Dear Eddie,

Who is a better manager, Harvey Wippleman or Paul Bearer?

JOSEPH IORIO
Kansas City, MO

Dear Joseph,

It's like asking who's a better wrestler, Chuck the Kosher Killer or Dink the midget. Wippleman's never seen a career he couldn't ruin, and Bearer is the one who should be resting in peace. I say get rid of both of 'em.

Someone actually wasted a stamp to ask me my opinion of Paul Bearer? Sorry, I'm not about to waste my valuable time trying to come up with a long, thought-out, creative answer to *that* one.

Dear Eddie,

Where would you place the recently retired Ivan Koloff among the all-time greats? Do you think he was one of the greatest wrestlers ever? How will history treat him?

DENNY McINTYRE
Vancouver, BC

Dear Denny,

If you mean will history reveal him to be a government operative or secret cold war spy, I don't think so. Despite many rumors, Koloff was a wrestler first, Soviet ambassador second. Koloff's frightening demeanor always belied his relatively small frame. In terms of accomplishment and longevity, he may gave

(Continued on page 60)

*IT IS THE ultimate irony that the WWF is promoting the Tim Burton film, **Ed Wood**—as ironic as the film itself, which celebrates the career of a man many called the "worst director of all-time." The WWF is gaga about the movie because of the appearance of ex-WWF wrestler George "The Animal" Steele. The irony is that during Steele's career, the federation did everything in its power to squash and suppress him, often calling him the worst wrestler in the federation.*

Steele was certainly the reigning madman of his time. Bald and hairy, with a thick midsection and a penchant for eating turnbuckle stuffing, Steele was a major problem for the fan favorite champions of the 1970s. To call him crazy would not be incorrect; to label him devoid of wrestling skills would be. Steele's flying hammerlock was one of the most spectacular submission holds of his era.

Several times, he came within a heartbeat of winning the WWF World title from Pedro Morales. He resurfaced for the last time in the WWF in the mid-1980s— lusting after Miss Elizabeth—before officially retiring from the ring a few years ago. His appearance in Burton's film reminds us that 20 years ago the WWF had many outrageous personalities. The difference is they could wrestle, too.

I can't believe the WWF is plugging *Ed Wood*, the motion picture starring George "The Animal" Steele. The federation used to call Steele a lousy wrestler with no real wrestling skills. That's not the way I saw it.

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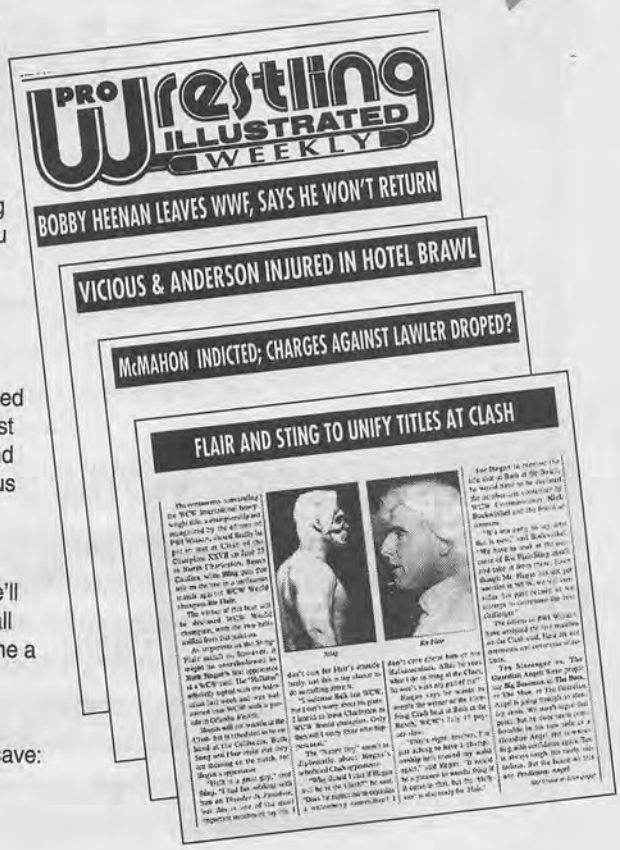

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ONLY BRIAN PILLMAN CAN SAVE STEVE AUSTIN'S CAREER

By Bill Apter

NOT LONG AGO, a reporter offered what he thought was a compliment to Steve Austin. "How does it feel," the reporter asked, "to see yourself being compared to a young Ric Flair?"

Austin glared at the man. "You calling me a man in training?" he said. "I don't think so. Someday they'll say Ric Flair reminded 'em of Steve Austin. I'm *nobody's* footnote. I don't stand in *anyone's* shadow."

The reporter walked away muttering something about how dangerous a man with such a gigantic ego could be. At the time, Austin could afford to have that kind of attitude. Brash and outspoken, with the U.S. title around his waist, he was the hottest young commodity in pro wrestling.

"I'm young and smart," he said. "I know how good I am, and that's scary."

Meanwhile, Brian Pillman, with whom Austin once shared the WCW World tag team championship, predicted a cloudy future for his former partner and best friend.

"Let's just say I know Steve Austin better than he knows him-

The last few months have been downright lousy for former WCW U.S. champion Steve Austin. In order to ensure himself a bright future, he might want to delve into his past—in a way you might find as shocking as we do!

Photos by Colin Bowman & Larry Smith

Steve Austin was shocked when Hacksaw Duggan took only 27 seconds to beat him for the U.S. title at Fall Brawl. He's having a hard time recovering from that defeat.

The look on Brian Pillman's face shows just how much he enjoys hurting Steve Austin. But Pillman also remembers the success they had together as The Hollywood Blonds. He says Austin won't admit that he would have been better off if the Blonds had stuck together over the long haul.

self," Pillman said. "He's on a roller-coaster that's gonna crash soon—and crash hard."

Pillman's remarks made him sound like a bitter man. That's because he *was* bitter. *Very* bitter.

And he still is.

Just when everyone was starting to talk about how dominant Austin and Pillman—The Hollywood Blonds—could be if they stuck together, Austin dumped Pillman, choosing to pursue singles glory under the tutelage of Col. Robert Parker.

The ensuing feud left Austin on top. He beat Dustin Rhodes for the U.S. title in December 1993, and cruised through the first half of 1994. Then came Clash of the Champions XXVIII in August 1994. Rick Steamboat crushed Austin and ended his reign at eight months.

For weeks, Austin chased Steamboat. But despite all-star boasting—"I'm gonna stuff 'The Dragon' and put him in my rumpus room!"—Austin couldn't recapture his belt. With his wrestling stock slipping, "Stunning" Steve got another title shot at Fall Brawl. When Steamboat came up lame and had to forfeit the title, "Stunning" Steve was feeling good again.

Then WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel told him he'd have to wrestle Hacksaw Duggan...and everything fell apart.

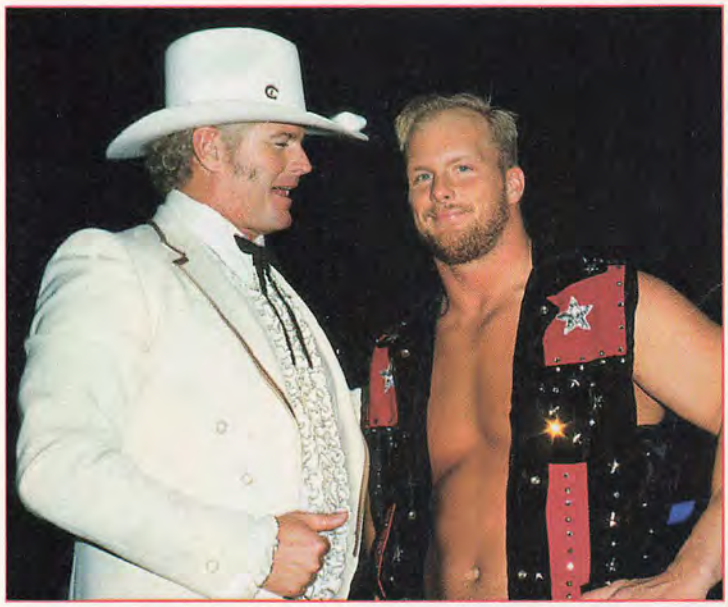
Duggan pinned him in 27 seconds, proving that what goes up must come down—the "what" in this case being Steve Austin's career. During WCW's recent European tour, it was said that Austin was suffering from severe depression, an allegation he vehemently denied. "I get depressed when I have to talk to *you*," he snapped at one reporter.

His wrestling also suffered. Battling his old partner Pillman and others, there was no fire in Austin's eyes. He was going through the motions, mistiming key moves, and showing very little enthusiasm. When fans heckled him, he couldn't come up with quick comebacks.

Was Steve Austin finished before he really started? Could anything save his fast-fading career?

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED has learned that a stunning development may stop the bleeding and put Austin back on the championship track. The development's name is Brian Pillman, and though neither

Austin viciously chokes Pillman on the ropes during a bout in Europe. "Stunning" Steve was reportedly very depressed while on WCW's recent U.K. tour. Some said he rarely showed the intensity and arrogance for which he's become famous.



Austin has always seemed to do better with someone at his side. He captured the WCW World tag team title with Pillman (right) and won his first U.S. title with Col. Robert Parker as his manager (above).

man will admit it, reliable sources say the two men have been talking to each other. Not trading insults, not screaming profanity, just talking ... face to face, heart to heart, man to man.

"I swear to God, I wouldn't kid ya 'bout something this important." The speaker is John McGillicuty, the owner of a small pub-restaurant in Birmingham, England. According to McGillicuty, Pillman and Austin dined together at his place twice when WCW was in town.

"They sat right there," he said, pointing to a secluded table in the corner of the restaurant. "And they looked like they were getting along just fine. I swear to you that it's true."

When reached for comment, neither Pillman nor Austin would corroborate McGillicuty's story. "I don't talk to that fool anymore," Austin said. "The only time our paths cross is when I'm rearranging his face in the ring."

Pillman was more forthcoming. "When I first met Steve Austin, it was like looking in the mirror," he said. "I was a fan favorite and he was a loud-mouthed obnoxious jerk, but something existed between us that doesn't happen very often. When we wrestled together, it was like two bodies and one mind. He'd call me in the middle of the night and I knew what he was going to say.

"Whether Austin admits it or not, he knows we're wrestling soulmates. We can beat each other's brains out in the ring, but that can't destroy what exists between us. I know how he thinks. He had a good run there for a while after we split up, but he knows he would have been better off in the long run if he'd stayed with me. Look what has happened to him. He wanders around the ring like he's lost. He misses me. The Hollywood Blonds were a special tag team, but he has too much pride to admit that."

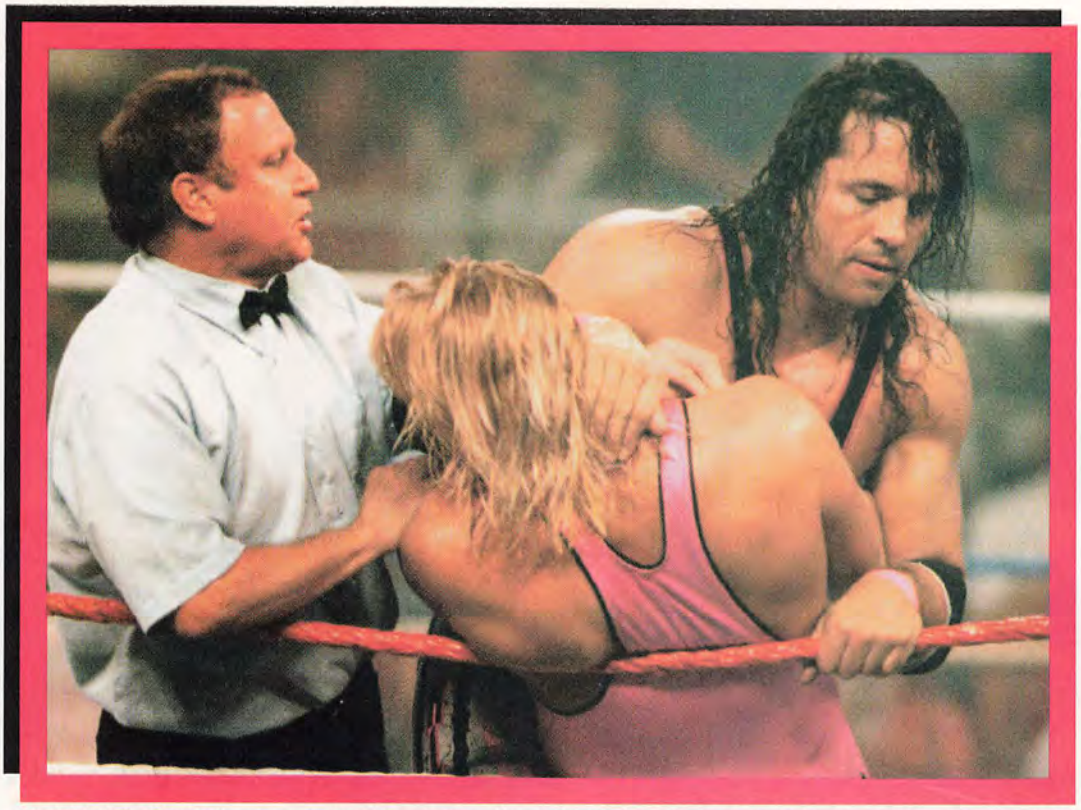
It appears Pillman would jump at the opportunity to put the team back together.

"You can't always get what you want," he said. "It may not work the same way it did. I'm thinking of a bigger picture. Steve Austin needs someone he can trust, or else he'll end up on the wrestling garbage heap. But I won't come to him."

It's up to Austin to make the first move. His future might depend on it. □

When they clash in the ring, it is obvious Pillman and Austin can't stand each other. However, a restaurant owner in England says he saw them talking several times recently, and that they were getting along just fine.

press conference...



Bret Hart battled his younger brother, Owen, throughout the summer of 1994; the bitterness between them shows no signs of subsiding. The "Hitman" would like to reconcile, but says it's up to Owen to take the first step and put aside his anger.

BRET HART

YEARS FROM NOW, Bret Hart will probably look back on 1994 as one of the most bittersweet years of his life. On the good side, he won his second WWF World title by defeating Yokozuna at WrestleMania X. He also became the first wrestler to be ranked No. 1 in the "PWI 500" for two consecutive years.

On the bad side, 1994 was the year in which Bret's younger brother, Owen, turned his back on his family. Furious that Bret refused to tag him during a match against The Quebecers, though he had a badly injured leg, Owen turned against his brother at the Royal Rumble in January.

"The Rocket" then demanded that Bret face him one-on-one so they could see who was the better Hart. Bret reluctantly agreed, and Owen pinned the "Hitman" at WrestleMania X—just hours before Bret won the World title.

During the summer, Bret granted his brother numerous title shots, and beat him every time. The feud heated up when Jim Neidhart, Owen and Bret's brother-in-law, joined Owen in pursuit of the World title. After Bret beat Owen in a grueling steel cage bout at SummerSlam, Neidhart and Owen shoved him back into the cage and attacked him. It was then that another brother-in-law, Davey Boy Smith, entered the feud, taking Bret's side. The Hart family feud rolls on.

New challengers, including King Kong Bundy and Bob Backlund, are now pursuing Bret's belt. As usual, he hasn't backed down from a single one of them.

Senior Editor Bill Apter recently had a chance to talk to Bret about a variety of topics. "We spoke for about 40 minutes," Apter reported. "Bret is a real pro and a fine man. He always has been. These can't be the easiest days for him and his family, but he was willing to answer any question I asked."

APTER: If you were a wrestling fan, and Bret Hart the wrestler did not exist, who would you have expected to see in the No. 1 position in the "*PWI* 500"?

HART: Wow, that's a tough question. I would go with ... Shawn Michaels. If I wasn't in the picture, I'd say he's the best. He's the one I think can carry wrestling to the next level. *[Editor's note: Michaels was ranked No. 5 in the 500.]*

APTER: Other than defending the World tag team belts with Diesel, he hasn't gotten a shot at your belt in ages. Why not, if he's such a great talent?

"I was never comfortable from the onset of this thing, fighting family members. No one is more tired of this than I am. I respect Owen's wrestling ability, but I want to go on to new challenges."

HART: I think he's just biding his time and he's on the way back full-swing now. His career has followed an interesting pattern. He's a tag team champion, and a former Intercontinental champion. My belt is the only one left for him to attain. Very few people attain it at all, and only Pedro Morales and I have had all three. Shawn Michaels is very capable of doing it as well. I'm sure Diesel is going to set records in our sport as well.

APTER: Unlike you and Michaels, Diesel is not a technical wrestler. He relies on his power and size to win.

HART: Anyone that big, who has even a fraction of the ability Shawn Michaels or I do, has a huge advantage. Size is an incredible thing. When I think back even to Hulk Hogan just a few years ago, when he was in his prime, he was an immovable force. He wasn't a great technical wrestler, but because of his size and his strength, it was impossible for a technical wrestler to capitalize on him in the ring. As he got smaller, over the years, he's become a lot more vulnerable. Diesel is young and powerful and he's got a lot of high energy, too. That all spells success to me.

APTER: Diesel and Michaels both ultimately want your title. Do you see that building up as a feud between the two?

HART: I've seen that disease in tag teams for years. The British Bulldogs, The Rockers—an endless list of tag teams—are friends, enemies, and then friends again.

APTER: That never happened between you and Jim Neidhart?

HART: That was a real unusual situation, an exception to the rule. As a team, we never had one single argument in over six years of tag team wrestling. We never slammed doors on each other in the locker room like lots of other teams. I spent more time with Jim Neidhart than I did with my wife and kids. We had a great bond. We lost the title and Jim and I were still fine with each other. The only real problem between Jim and I was that after a period of time, his career went stagnant. My career seemed to get just higher and higher. That's when dissension and jealousy set in. I know Jim says I never called him and thanked him for everything he did for the team, but that's not true. I did call him, I did stay in touch. After a while it became very awkward, difficult for me to brag about all my achievements and, at the same time, ask him how he was doing, and have him say he hasn't done anything. It made it difficult. So you space your calls, you don't want to feel like you're bragging. He never made any effort to call.

APTER: Back then, did you have any idea he was planning to poison Owen against you?

(Continued on page 48)

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

WCW CIVIL WAR!

WILL EX-WWF STARS SPARK A REVOLUTION?

By Dave Lenker

THE NEWS TRAVELED fast and was greeted by different reactions from two completely different parties. Hulk Hogan, Brutus Beefcake, Hacksaw Duggan, and Jimmy Hart couldn't have been happier. Ric Flair, Sherri Martel, Paul Orndorff, Paul Roma, and other WCW rulebreakers couldn't have been angrier.

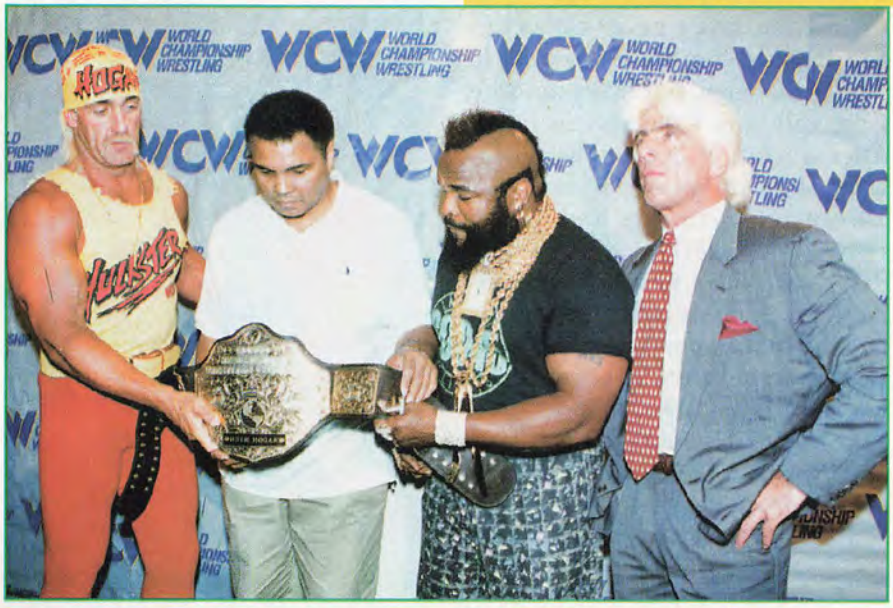
Their reaction went something like this:

"What the heck is going on here?"

To understand, you must answer this trivia question: What was the main event of WrestleMania I?

The answer, of course, is Hulk Hogan and Mr. T vs. Paul Orndorff and Roddy Piper.

Not only did Hulk Hogan get shots at then-World champ Ric Flair (above) as soon as he joined WCW, he was lucky enough to get his friend Mr. T (below, with Hogan, Flair, and Muhammad Ali) signed as referee for his Halloween Havoc bout with Flair.



And the news that got such a mixed reaction was the announcement that Mr. T had been named special guest referee for the Hogan-Flair match at Halloween Havoc.

That announcement brought up some very important concerns. WCW is looking more and more like the WWF of the mid- and late-1980s, to the point where WCW promoters are being accused of copying everything the WWF used to do. Take a quick look at the WCW roster: Hogan, Duggan, and The Guardian Angel own three spots in the top 10. They're all for-

Ever since Hulk Hogan arrived in Atlanta this summer, WCW has begun to look more and more like the WWF of old. That might result in bigger crowds at WCW cards and more sales for pay-per-views, but some of the established WCW stars don't like this trend

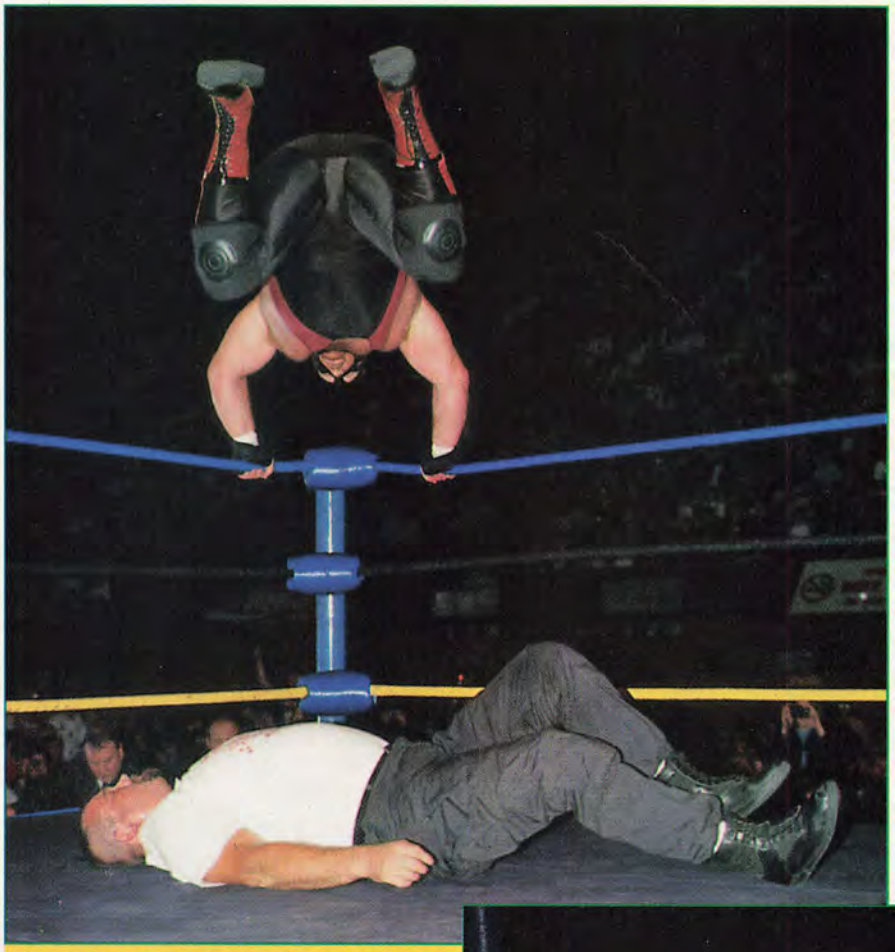
All ex-WWF competitor Hacksaw Duggan had to do was beat "Diamond" Dallas Page and other mid-card opponents before getting a shot at—and winning—the U.S. title at Fall Brawl. Many WCW stars would have given anything for such an opportunity.

mer WWF wrestlers (Guardian Angel as Big Bossman). The Honky Tonk Man, a former WWF Intercontinental champion, recently arrived in WCW and was deemed a top contender to the TV title before he even wrestled a handful of competitive matches.

Beefcake is always around. Hart, the former WWF manager, is now managing Hogan in WCW. Jesse "The Body" Ventura is out as TV commentator, but former WWF manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan has a more visible role than ever. And "Mean" Gene Okerlund is out front on WCW telecasts, making it look even more like the WWF.

They're taking over the whole federation—if they haven't done so already. WCW mainstays are being overrun by these unwelcome (by some) visitors who were invited into WCW by executives waving huge contracts in their faces.

Remember the old days, when wrestling fans debated which federation was better, WCW or the WWF? The argument has become moot. The WCW doesn't exist. Now there's Vince McMahon's WWF and Ted Turner's WWF.



The Guardian Angel (formerly Big Bossman in the WWF) began feuding with Big Van Vader shortly after entering WCW. WCW mainstays don't like seeing ex-WWF wrestlers taking over their federation and are considering doing something about it.

"Their arrogance is incredible," said one WCW mainstay who requested anonymity for fear of bucking the company line. "They just came in here like they owned the place and did whatever they wanted. You know, there used to be a time when WCW offered fans a real choice between the WWF's circus wrestling and real, no-nonsense wrestling. Now there's no choice. I feel bad for the fans."

Don't feel *too* bad. It's been a long time since fans in such numbers crowded into WCW arenas and watched WCW cablecasts and pay-per-view events. WCW as the WWF has been a smashing success. Unfortunately for the WCW promoters who are enjoying the fruits of this success, there are the makings of a revolution in WCW.

In the not-so-old old days, WCW was split between fan favorites and rulebreakers. Now the split is between former WWF wrestlers and WCW mainstays. The line is no longer drawn with the rulebook.

Hogan started the war when he won the World title from Flair in his first WCW match and proclaimed, "Everything old is new again." He meant happy days are here again, which meant that the old WWF, which was dying in the WWF, had been revived in WCW. Flair isn't happy about that.

"Hogan didn't have to do what he did," Flair said. "He made it out like his victory was a victory for a way of life or something. The last thing I need is Hogan talking about what's right and what's wrong. If you ask me, WCW was a pretty good place before he came along."

Whereas he used to be *the* star in WCW, Flair was suddenly turned into a mere co-star. And the WCW of 1994 and 1995 is looking nothing like the WCW of the late-1980s and early-'90s.

The Honky Tonk Man beat Rick Steamboat for the Intercontinental title in 1987 (above), when he was managed by Jimmy Hart (left). HTM only had to beat a few preliminary wrestlers to become a top contender to the WCW TV title.

While Hogan battles Flair with Mr. T as special guest referee, Bob Backlund and Bret Hart are reviving the WCW of the 1980s in the WWF of the 1990s (in terms of *style* of wrestling, at least).

"Which would you rather have?" Hogan said, without really addressing the issue. "This is a bottom-line sport, and the bottom line is on our side. If you ask me, WCW has been a lot better place since me and my buddies arrived, and I'm sure most people would agree."

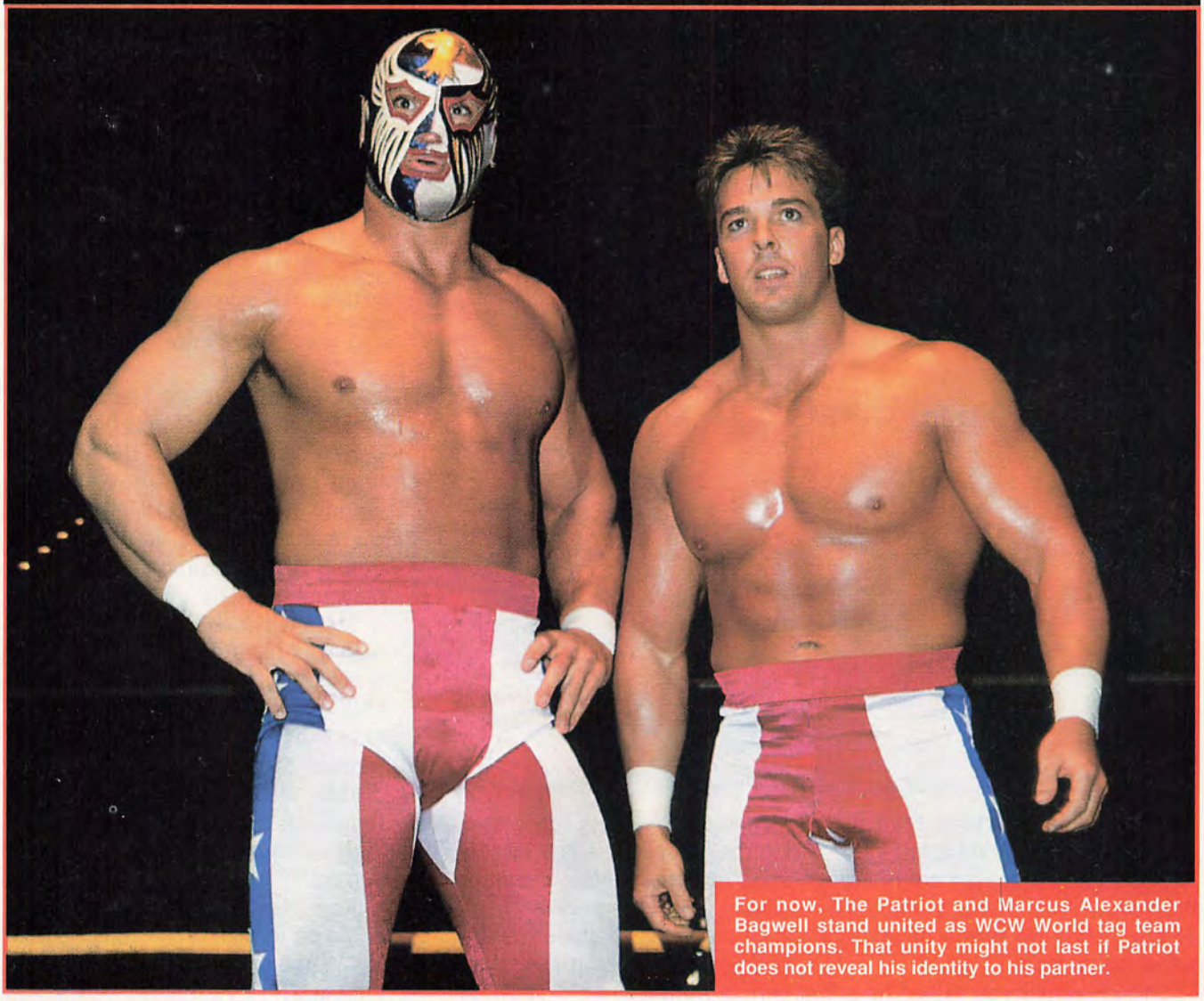
Hogan's influence has been the most striking. Prior to his arrival, the WCW World title was defended at least two or three times a week. Hogan has defended his title no more than once a week—except during WCW's European tour—and only against Flair.

Meanwhile, Hacksaw Duggan—who was never good enough to win a major title in the WWF—is the U.S. champion, and Honky Tonk Man is moving up the ladder of contention. Many WCW insiders think Jimmy Hart has exerted undue influence on WCW promoters. Is Hart calling the shots? Is Hogan? Are both?

The next WCW pay-per-view could pit former WWF stars against WCW mainstays. And it could get very ugly. □

Stars 'n' Stripes Shocker: BAGWELL: "IF PATRIOT DOESN'T UNMASK—WE'RE THROUGH!"

You're not alone if you've wondered about the face behind Patriot's mask. Marcus Alexander Bagwell dreams about it all the time. Obsessive thoughts have turned to doubts—and Stars 'n' Stripes could be in trouble



For now, The Patriot and Marcus Alexander Bagwell stand united as WCW World tag team champions. That unity might not last if Patriot does not reveal his identity to his partner.

By Dave Rosenbaum

IN THE NIGHTMARE that haunts him most often, Marcus Alexander Bagwell sees himself in the wrestling ring. Something has gone terribly wrong. Paul Orndorff is in one corner, Paul Roma in another. The WCW World tag team championship belts are around their waists. In another corner, standing directly across from Bagwell, is The Patriot. He's laughing.

At about this time, Bagwell usually wakes up in a cold sweat. Because it's at this point in the dream that The Patriot removes his mask, revealing a face that Bagwell can't quite place. He just knows it's a bad face—a face belonging to the person who just cost him the tag team title. Shock. Betrayal. Even in his dreams, Bagwell can feel these feelings ripping him apart.

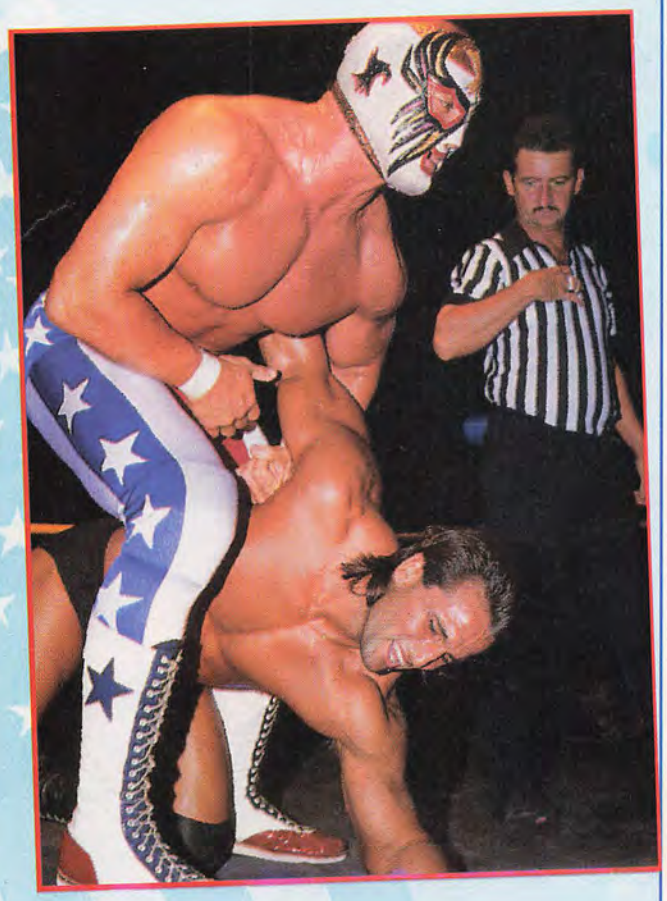
"It's so real," Bagwell confided. "I've never had dreams like this before. In fact, I've always been a pretty sound sleeper, but this thing is freaking me out.

"You know," he continued, "I trust Patriot like I'd trust my own brother. I know he'd never do anything to hurt me, but in the back of my mind, there's something lurking. I'm not sure what it is, but it's destructive. Maybe it's my fault. He's never done anything to hurt me. But who knows? You know what I mean? Who knows? He could be anyone!"

Bagwell's eyes are bloodshot. Dark rings circle his eyes. He looks like he's been having this nightmare every night. The next words out of his mouth confirm this observation.

"I can't sleep, and it's affecting the way I wrestle," Bagwell said. "It concerns me, because we have to be on top of our game every time we step into that ring, because there's always somebody trying to knock us off our perch. One way or the other, it has to happen. If Patriot doesn't unmask—we're through."

The words echoed throughout the dressing room. Even Bagwell didn't seem to believe that those words had just come from his mouth. He covered his mouth with



Patriot has given Paul Roma fits every time they've clashed in tag team action. Bagwell concedes that Patriot has done nothing to indicate he can't be trusted; he just wants proof that it's not one of his old rivals under that mask.

Bagwell catches Orndorff off-guard with a sunset flip. He says his curiosity about his partner's identity has turned into obsession, and he's even starting to lose sleep over it.

Patriot's wristlock had Roma howling in pain at Fall Brawl (left), but "Pretty" Paul turned the match around when he applied a chinlock (above). Bagwell and Patriot wouldn't stand a chance against Roma and Orndorff if their problems get any worse and the trust between them is shattered.

his right hand. Could it be that Stars 'n' Stripes, the most popular and successful tag team in WCW, is on the verge of a split?

"No," Bagwell said. "Because I know that if I ask him, he'll tell me who he really is. He doesn't have to unmask for the world. He just has to let me know. That's all. It's easy. We'll work it out. Don't worry. It'll be fine."

Bagwell paused again. He smiled for the first time in a long time.

"You know, it's tough going out to dinner on the road and sitting across from a guy wearing a red, white, and blue mask," he said. "I'm always telling him when he has food stuck on his mask. It gets a little disgusting sometimes."

The levity lasted but an instant. Bagwell turned serious again.

"You know what they say about dreams, that they're a gateway to your inner self?" Bagwell said. "Well, what if my dream *is* true? What if Patriot *isn't* on my side? What if teaming with me is all part of some kind of sinister plan of his? These kinds of things happen in wrestling. I don't think I'm being paranoid."

Again, Bagwell seemed shocked by his honesty. Again, Patriot has given no indication that he's anything but a good friend and trustworthy tag team partner. Fewer people would be surprised if Bagwell became a rulebreaker than if Patriot turned against his partner. The irony here is that Patriot's weapon—his aura of mystery—is working on Bagwell the same way that it is supposed to work on opponents.

Patriot says there's nothing he can do about that.

"Sure, I'm sorry to hear Marcus feels that way," Patriot said. "I've always said you should judge a man by his actions, and mine have been right down the straight and narrow. He has no reason to doubt me. But I won't unmask for anyone. Not Marcus, not my closest friends. Some of them don't even know I'm a wrestler. It just has to be that way. I plan on having a long career as The Patriot, and who knows *how* long Marcus and I are going to be together? I hope it's for a long time, but you know how things are in this sport: You just never know what's going to happen next.

"Besides," Patriot continued, "once you tell one person, everybody knows. Secrets are like water behind a dam. Let a little through a hole, and before you know it, the dam has busted and water's pouring through everywhere."

Patriot was asked how he'd feel if *his* partner were wearing a mask and he had no idea of that partner's true identity.

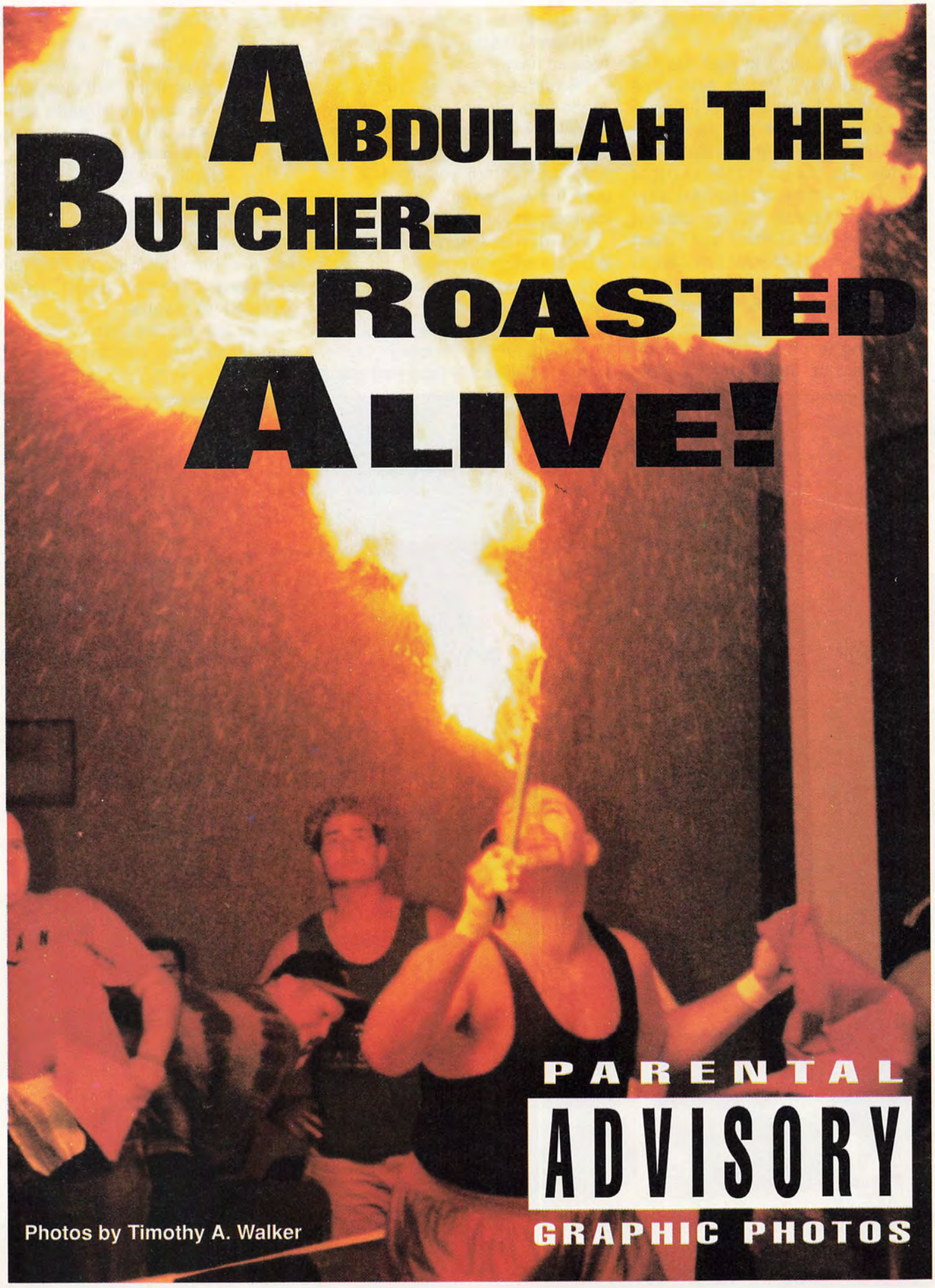
"I don't know," he said. "But trust is important. It doesn't matter *what* I look like. My face isn't going to tell him anything more about what kind of person I am. That mask doesn't cover my eyes. He can look straight into my eyes and see that I'm dealing straight with him. I guess Marcus and I are going to have to have a little talk."

The potential for tag team disaster exists. Opponents, especially Roma and Orndorff, have tried to chip away at Stars 'n' Stripes and find a weakness. But now Bagwell exposed it for the world. He's revealed his dreams.

And his nightmares ... which could mean the end for Stars 'n' Stripes. □

Bagwell admits the mask issue is starting to affect his wrestling. That's good news for Orndorff and Roma, who are looking for any little weakness that could help them upend Stars 'n' Stripes.

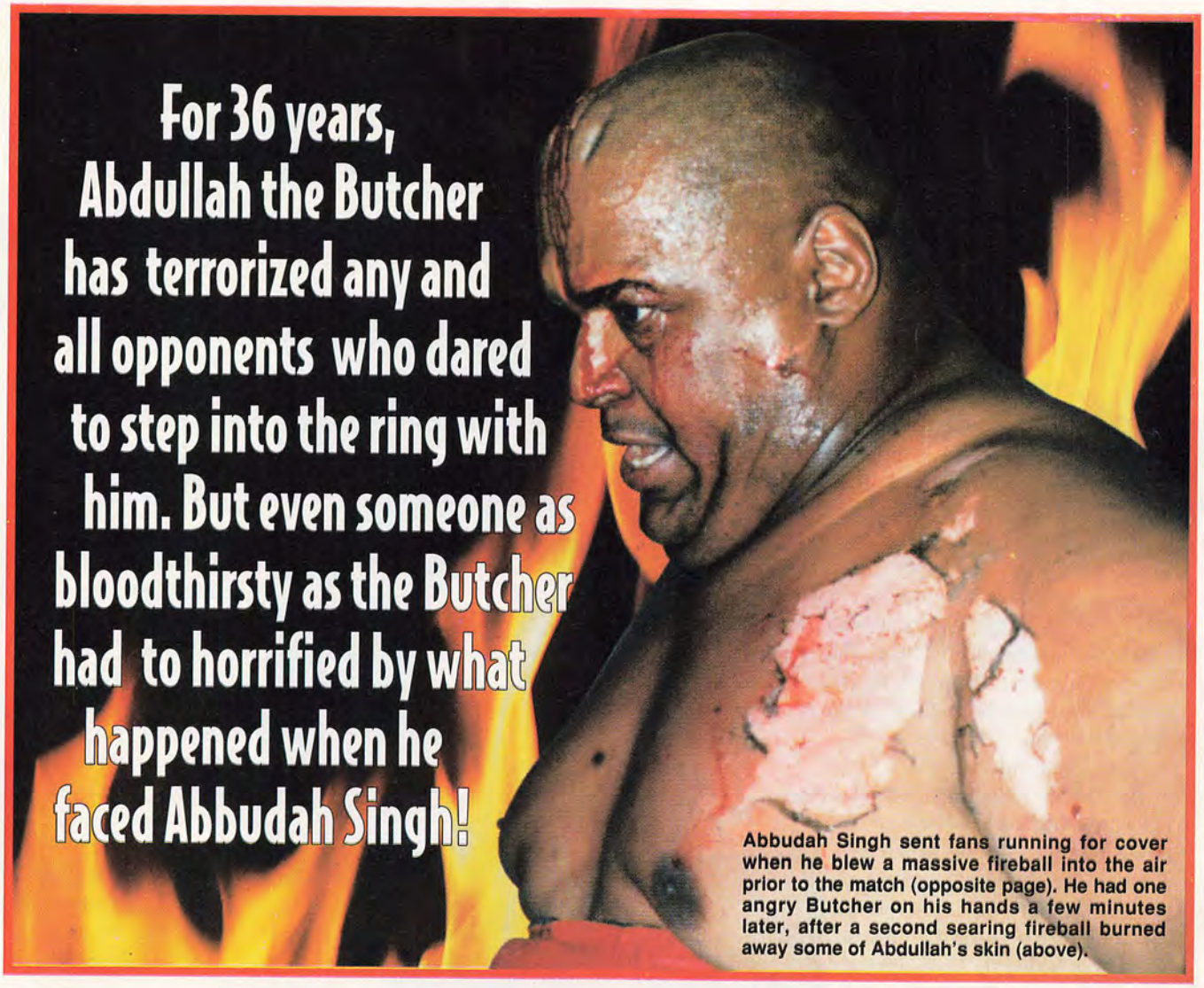
Abdullah The Butcher-Roasted Alive!



PARENTAL ADVISORY
GRAPHIC PHOTOS

Photos by Timothy A. Walker

For 36 years, Abdullah the Butcher has terrorized any and all opponents who dared to step into the ring with him. But even someone as bloodthirsty as the Butcher had to horrified by what happened when he faced Abbudah Singh!



Abbudah Singh sent fans running for cover when he blew a massive fireball into the air prior to the match (opposite page). He had one angry Butcher on his hands a few minutes later, after a second searing fireball burned away some of Abdullah's skin (above).

By Ed Emelett

THE SANDMAN NEARLY has his eye ripped out during an ECW "I Quit" match with Tommy Dreamer. Terry Funk leaves the ring with his body wrapped in barbed-wire after a bloody tag team match against Public Enemy. Wrestling seems to get and more violent with each passing day. The word *brutality* takes on new meaning after every horrifying incident.

But the fans who came to a recent WWA card in Clementon, New Jersey, had no idea that they were about to witness one of the most brutal, shocking, and terrifying events in the history of professional wrestling.

Wrestling in the main event were two of the most bloodthirsty competitors this sport has ever seen. Abdullah the Butcher, the madman from the Sudan, was scheduled to "wrestle" Abbudah Singh, the sadistic Singapore native who wants to take over Abdullah's role as the most brutal man in the sport. (He thinks caning should be a medal sport in the Olympics.)

These two men are no strangers to each other. They've wrestled before, spilled buckets of blood, and still came back for more. Singh even came to Abdullah's rescue in Puerto Rico (no one knows why) when he was being pummeled by a half-dozen wrestlers.

On this night, the atmosphere was like that of a championship match, only there was no shiny gold belt on the line. This match was about a title only Abdullah and Abbudah recognized. They both want to be known as the most sadistic man in wrestling.

Before the match, the Butcher sat in his dressing room as usual, sharpening his collection of rusty, homemade foreign objects. The low-volume, high-pitched screams he emitted during his prematch meditation made the other wrestlers in the locker room a bit fearful of him.

Meanwhile, across the building in the other dressing room, Singh was practicing his uncanny ability to breathe fire. He spewed a huge fireball across the locker room and set one of the other wrestlers' ring jackets aflame. The wrestler didn't even bother to approach Singh. He knew all about his reputation, and he didn't want to get him any more enraged than he already was.

Who could tell where that next mouthful of fire might be aimed?!

When match time arrived, Singh approached the ring first. He had that wild look in his eyes, a look that told everyone he was searching for a target for his destruction. With the lights dimmed, he breathed a massive cloud of fire into the air. The entire arena lit up as some fans recoiled in horror and others dove for cover.

Finally, Abdullah slowly made his way toward the ring. The expression on his face made one fact abundantly clear: This was going to be a bloodfest. Abdullah dipped his badly scarred, war-torn body through the ropes and entered the ring.

Then it happened.

As soon as Abdullah was in his corner, Singh ran across the ring and breathed fire at the Butcher—setting Abdullah's chest on fire! The fans' screams of terror—and the putrid smell of roasted flesh—filled the arena. Singh was loving it! He continued his attack, pouncing on the Butcher like a wild animal about to devour its prey.

But the diabolical Abdullah was impervious to the pain of the fire, even though it did produce huge burns on his chest and arm. The melee continued as Abdullah showed everyone why they call him the Butcher. He dug into his trunks, whipped out his fork, and started to carve up Singh's forehead. Before long, both men were bloody messes—and Abdullah had several layers of scorched skin repulsively hanging from his wound.

The Butcher continued his merciless onslaught and rallied to get the pin after two devastating elbowsmashes. He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital afterward for treatment of second- and third-degree burns.

Only a warrior as tough as Abdullah could shake off the effects of such a brutal assault so quickly! He took everything Singh threw at him, then casually removed a foreign object from his trunks and started carving up the Singapore native's forehead.

After this horrifying match, Singh had a warning for his foe: "I do not care about what happened to the Butcher," he said through an interpreter as blood poured from his forehead. "Let this be a warning to anyone who dares to step in the ring with me. This will show everyone what kind of a maniac I really am. I have no regard for human life, and I do not care who I injure. It is time for Abdullah to retire, and for me to take his place as the most brutal man in wrestling.

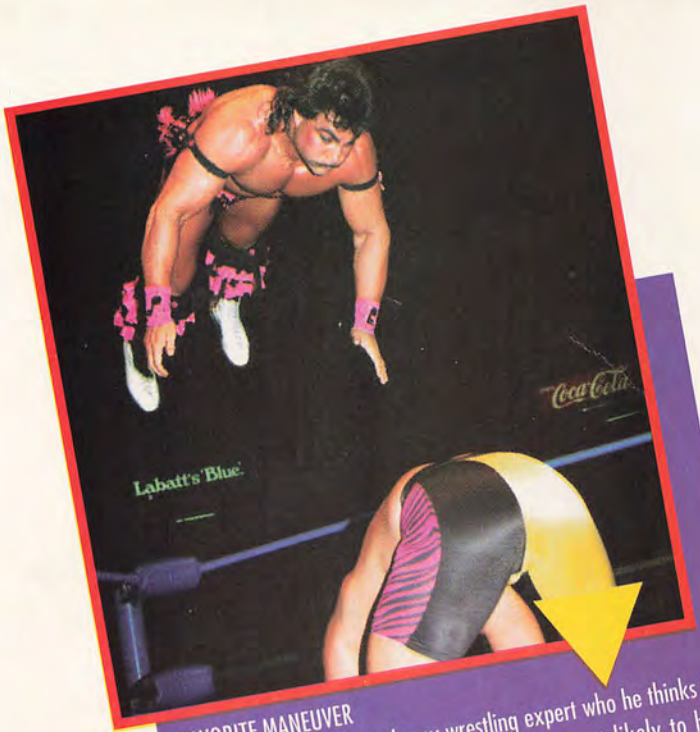
"You think what I did was terrible? I took it easy on him! Wait until the *next* time. The next time I wrestle Abdullah will be the last time he wrestles ... ever!"

Many men have been burned by fireballs in the squared circle. Dusty Rhodes, for one, knows all-too-well the dangers of throwing fire.

"Lemme tell ya somethin', daddy, I've never seen anything like that before," he said when told about what happened. "That man Abbudah Singh must be crazy! I remember when Tully Blanchard burned my eye with a fireball. The pain was agonizing. I can imagine what the Butcher is goin' through, baby, but I'm not even sure if he felt anything. This sport is getting more violent all the time. What's next?"

That's hard to say. When a maniac like Singh goes out to injure his opponent in a manner that can be career- or life-threatening, he shouldn't be granted a wrestling license. Some kind of action must be taken against him. Knowing Abdullah, he'll get revenge in his own sinister, sadistic way.

No one knows what kind of brutality that will bring ... and no one wants to find out. □

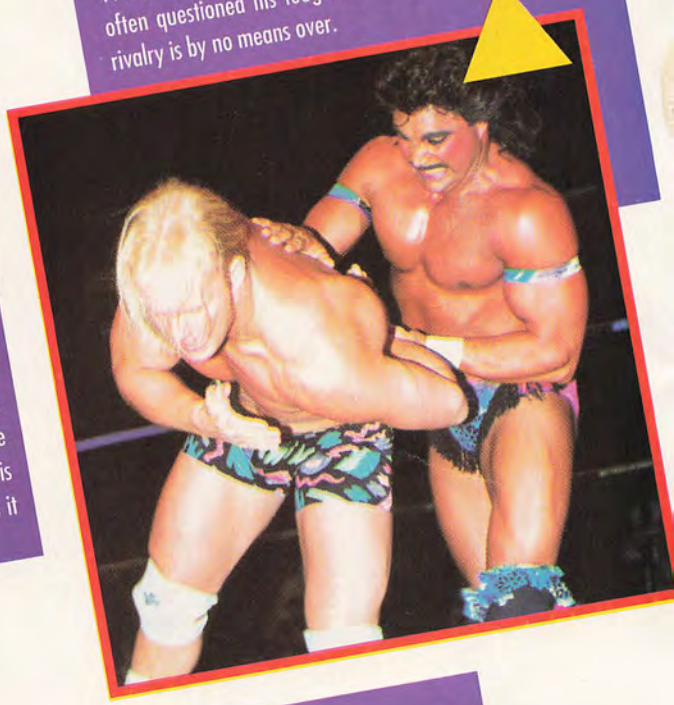


FAVORITE MANEUVER

Top-rope sunset flip. Ask any wrestling expert who he thinks the best aerialists in the sport are, and you're not likely to hear Johnny B. Badd's name. He's better known as a puncher, but you'd never know it from watching him execute this maneuver. He climbs to the top rope, leaps over his dazed opponent, hooks his hips, and rolls him over for the pin. If the opponent doesn't see it coming, it's almost impossible to defend against.

MOST HATED OPPONENT

Steve Austin. To this day, Badd has not scored a decisive victory over "Stunning" Steve, though he has come very close several times. In fact, Austin has often had to use foreign objects to beat Badd. But that isn't what irks Johnny B. the most. During their intense feud in the summer of 1994, Austin not only tried to beat and humiliate Badd, he often questioned his toughness—and his manhood. This rivalry is by no means over.

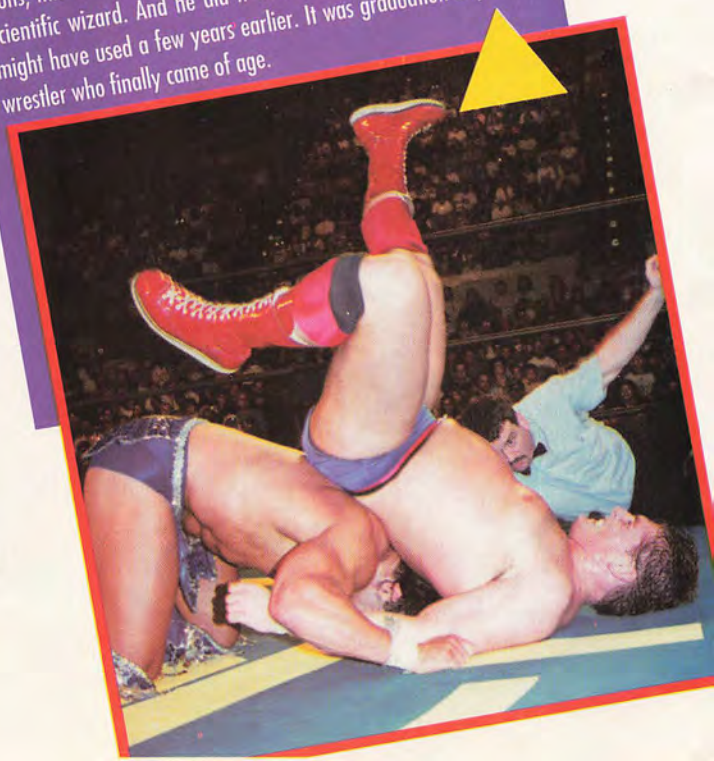


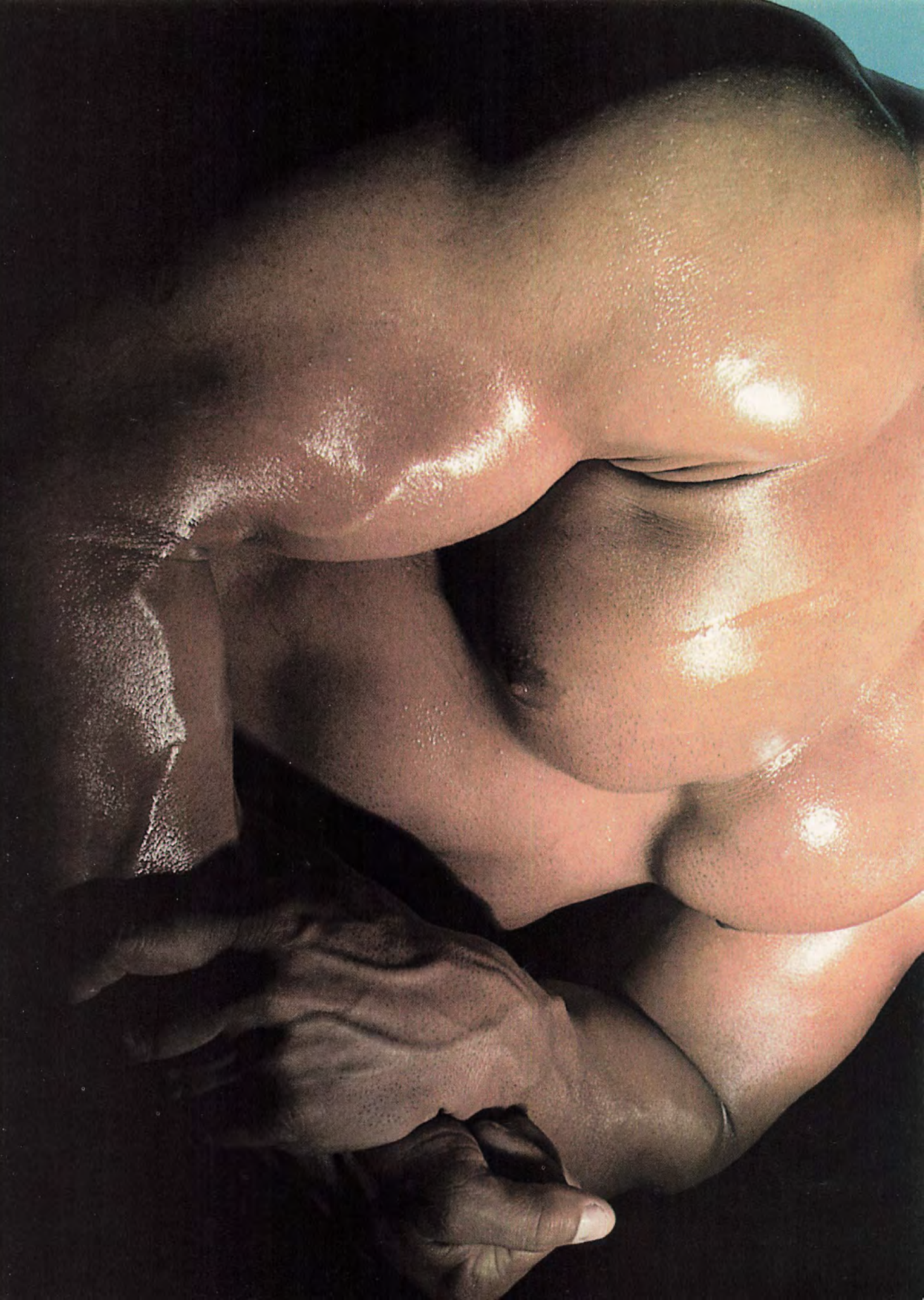
TOUGHEST OPPONENT

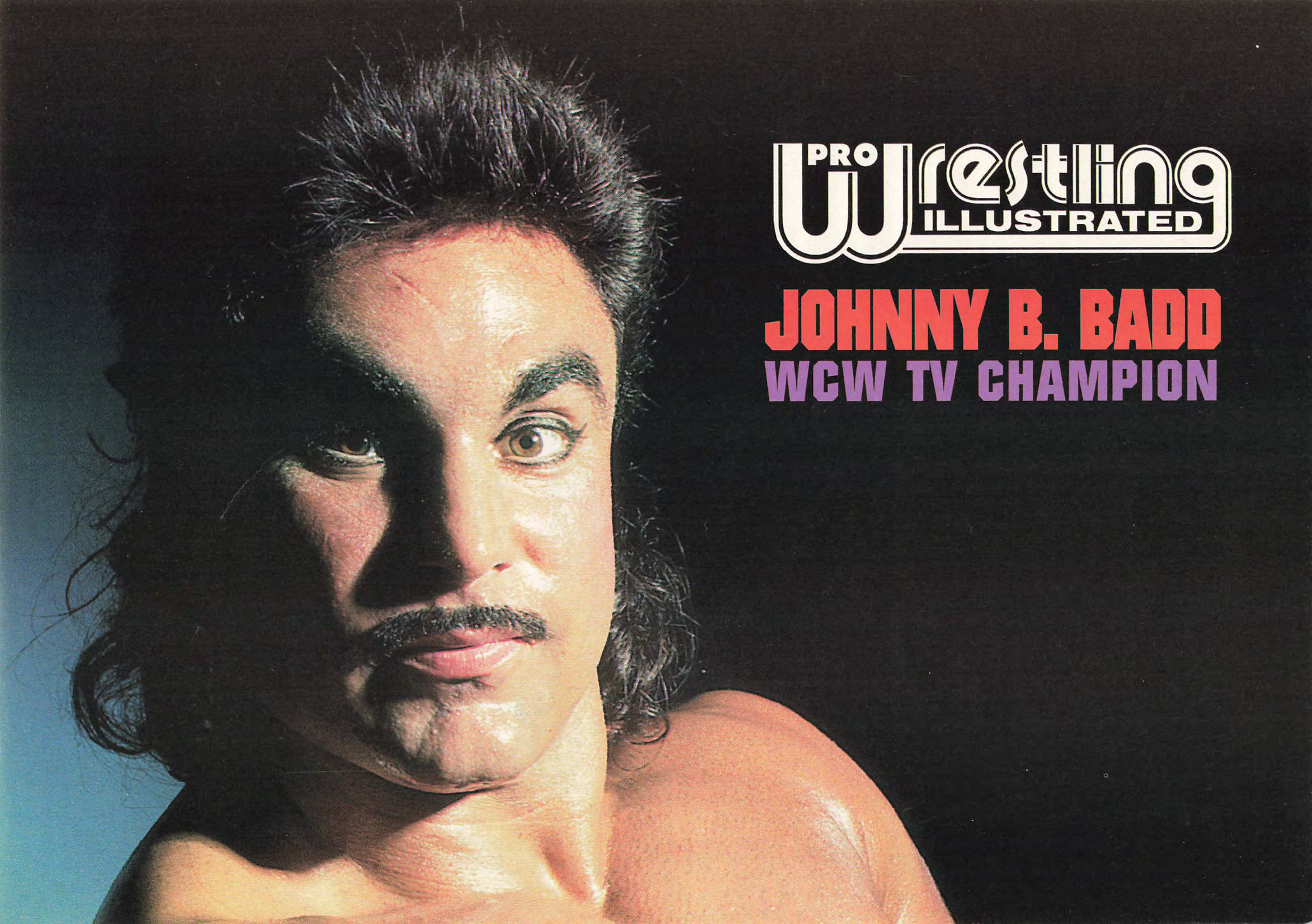
Ric Flair. Badd was thrilled last march when WCW promoters told him he'd be getting a shot at Flair's World title. He wrestled what many observers said was one of the best matches of his life, later confiding that he thought he had the "Nature Boy" beaten numerous times. Alas, the wily Flair fought back and pinned Badd. It was a tough loss, but a valuable learning experience.

GREATEST MATCH

vs. Lord Steven Regal, September 18, 1994. At long last, Badd won his first major title by pinning Regal for the WCW TV belt. He had come close to beating His Lordship on several occasions; this time, he overcame an ankle injury to defeat the British scientific wizard. And he did it with a backslide, not the jab he might have used a few years earlier. It was graduation day for a wrestler who finally came of age.





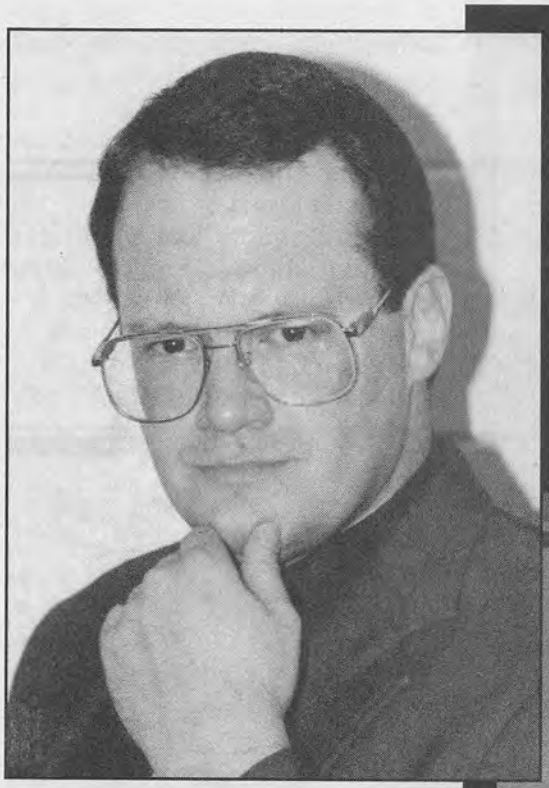

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
JOHNNY B. BADD
WCW TV CHAMPION

close-up:

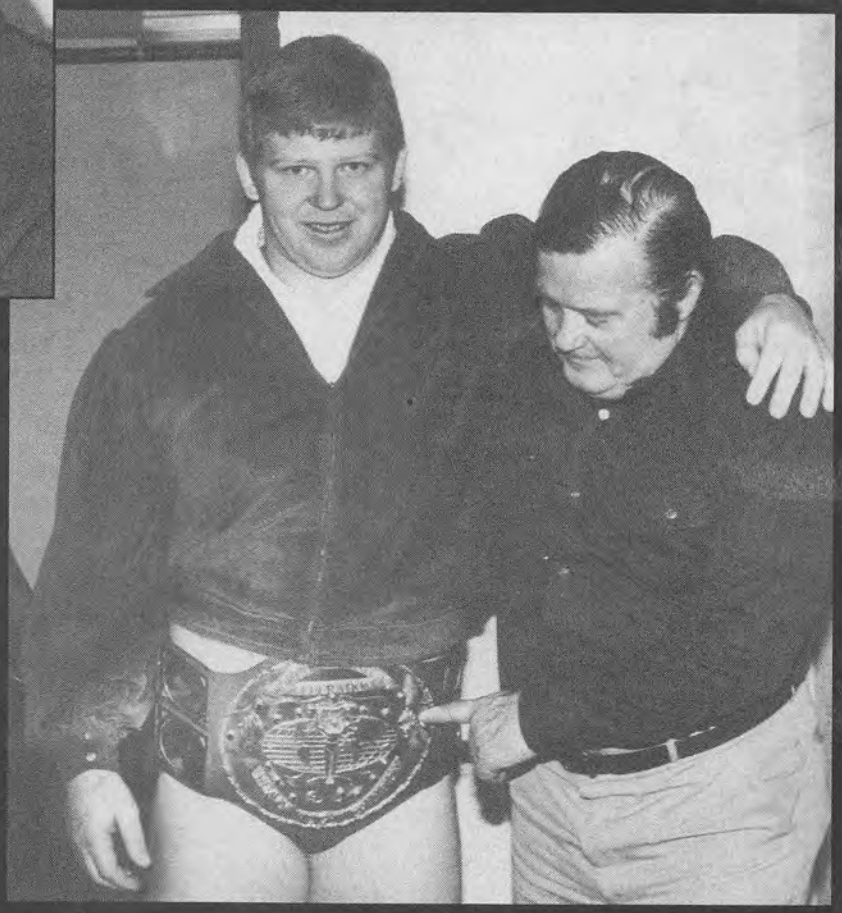
JOHNNY B. BADD

JOHNNY B. BADD is one of the most colorful and beloved wrestlers in the world ... The 6', 235-pound native of Macon, Georgia, is more than a wrestler ... An athlete who thinks giving is more important than taking, he devotes a great deal of his time to charity work ... Frequently visits children's hospitals ... Former boxer has one of the most devastating jabs in wrestling ... Broke into wrestling in mid-1991 with Teddy Long as his manager ... Billed himself as "the prettiest man in WCW" and imitated Little Richard, another Macon native ... Made his pay-per-view debut against The Yellow Dog on July 14, 1991, at the Great American Bash ... Lost by disqualification when Long interfered ... Although Long cost Badd several matches, he helped his progress by teaching Badd to augment his outstanding punching ability with scientific skills ... Received several title shots at WCW TV champion Steve Austin ... Although he couldn't win the title from Austin, the matches were valuable learning experiences ... Started using a stunning sunset flip from the top rope ... Suddenly, fans and opponents alike realized there was more to Badd than just a big punch ... Battled Jim Garvin at Halloween Havoc '91, getting the pin following a crushing left to Garvin's jaw ... Unwilling to allow Long to dictate the course of his career any longer, Badd severed his ties with his manager ... The move turned Badd into a full-fledged fan favorite—and earned him the trust of other fan favorites, including P.N. News ... Badd and News formed a tag team after a series of one-on-one battles ... After Badd pinned News in one of those matches, the men shook hands and left the ring together ... It was the beginning of a long friendship ... Scored several singles victories over Ricky Morton ... Started teaming with News against "Diamond" Dallas Page and Teddy Long ... Badd pinned Long in most of those matches ... Named Rookie of the Year for 1991 by the readers of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, outdistancing—among others—The Patriot, The Lightning Kid, Van Hammer, and P.N. News ... The margin of victory was nearly 8,000 votes ... Needed only 3:20 to pin Morton at Clash of the Champions XVIII ... Continued his winning ways with easy victories over Page ... Earned a series of shots at WCW light heavyweight champion Jushin Liger ... It was a classic series as Liger eked out victories in most of their matches ... A feud with Scotty Flamingo began when Flamingo claimed that he, not Badd, was "the prettiest man in WCW" ... The feud intensified when Flamingo blindsided Badd with a roll of coins after Badd stuck a pair of plastic lips on his nemesis ... Although many experts made light of the feud because it was based on such a silly premise, there was real hatred between the two men ... And real stupidity, too, because Flamingo foolishly agreed to battle Johnny in a boxing match at Clash of the Champions XXI on November 18, 1992 ... But Flamingo had a few tricks up his glove: He scored the upset by knocking out Badd with a glove that had been loaded with water between rounds by Flamingo's corner man, Dallas Page (Teddy Long seconded Badd) ... "Nobody in WCW comes close to Johnny in terms of pure boxing skills," Long said, perhaps forgetting that the sport is wrestling, not boxing ... Teamed with Cactus Jack in the first round of the "Lethal Lottery" at Starrcade '92 and lost to Van Hammer and Dan Spivey when Hammer pinned Cactus ... Was sidelined for several weeks when Maxx Payne injured him with a "Payne killer" armbar submission hold ... The feud intensified when Payne burned Badd's face with Johnny's "Badd blaster" ... Badd started wearing a mask to cover the damage done to his face ... Pinned Payne in a grudge match at Beach Blast '93 ... Enraged by Payne's actions, Badd dominated their series of matches ... Once his face healed, Badd took off the mask ... Surprised the world when he and Payne shook hands at a TV taping and became allies ... Earned several shots at WCW TV champion Lord Steven Regal ... Nearly upset then-WCW World champ Ric Flair during a tour of Germany in March 1994 ... Received a shot at U.S. champion Steve Austin at Slamboree '94 ... Scored several near-pinfalls before suffering a disappointing loss ... By this time, Badd had taken a more serious approach to wrestling and no longer seemed to care whether he was the prettiest man in WCW ... Austin used a foreign object to beat Badd at Clash of the Champions XXVII ... After the match ended, alternate referee Randy Anderson told original referee Nick Patrick what happened ... During the confusion, Badd rolled up Austin and Anderson made the three-count ... Badd held the belt for several minutes before WCW officials invalidated the pin and returned the belt to Austin ... Substituted for Sting at Bash at the Beach '94 and lost to TV champion Regal ... Despite being hobbled by an ankle injury, Badd's championship dream finally came true when he won a major title at Fall Brawl '94 ... Badd defeated Regal for the TV title, using a backslide to score the impressive victory ... His career has followed a clearly defined path ... He developed from a stylish puncher into a wrestler who combines violence with science; a fine top-rope sunset flip and a recently developed "Frankensteiner" are now part of his vast repertoire ... He has learned from each of his losses and taken something from every feud ... Nobody knows how long Badd will remain TV champion, but one thing seems sure: This won't be his last major title.

"BACKLUND NEEDED SKAALAND, NOW HE NEEDS ME!"



Bob Backlund could be WWF World champion again—if only he had the right manager. That manager is Jim Cornette, says Jim Cornette. In this *PWI* exclusive, Cornette tells why he believes he is the man to take Backlund back to the top—and keep him there!



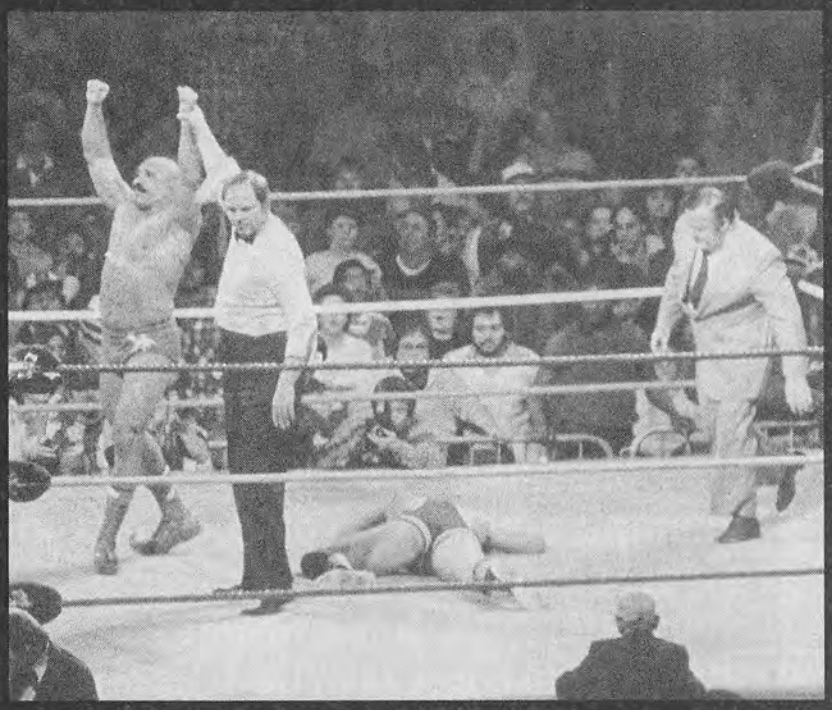
By Jim Cornette

WHEN BOB BACKLUND decided to stop listening to the fans so much, it was one of the smartest moves he ever made. This new attitude of his is really going to help his career.

It won't be enough, though. For Backlund to get all the way back to the top, for him to become WWF World champion again—and keep the belt for a long time—he needs something more. He needs a great manager.

He needs me.

I know you're thinking: "It's Cornette and his big ego again. Cornette thinks he can do anything." Well, I can, but that's beside



The Iron Sheik won the WWF World title from Backlund in 1983 when Skaaland threw in the towel. Backlund still hasn't forgiven his former manager for doing that; Jim Cornette says a good manager never gives up on his wrestlers.

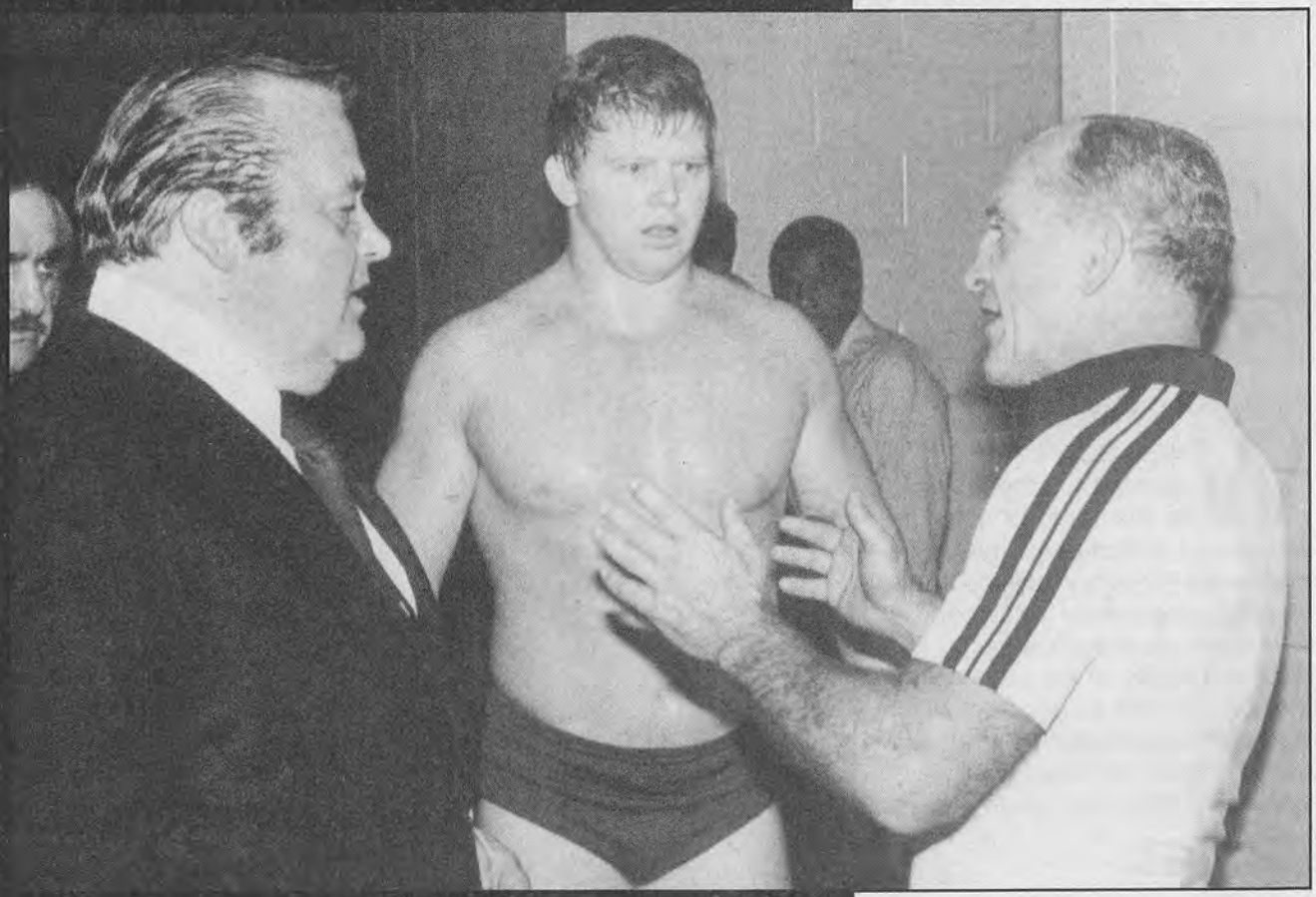
the point. The point is that I know *precisely* what needs to be done to bring Backlund back to the top.

Actually, there isn't a lot I have to do. Backlund is one of the most talented wrestlers I've ever seen. There isn't a damned thing I need to teach him about holds and maneuvers.

What I *can* help him with, though, is all those little ins and outs a wrestler needs to succeed in this business these days. For most of his career, Backlund was concerned with—obsessed with, really—doing things strictly by the book.

Well, that worked for him for a long time. The man held the WWF World title for nearly six years. He defeated people like Superstar Graham, Jimmy Snuka, Greg Valentine—the best of his era. He was the classic fighting champion.

But today's wrestlers are stronger and smarter. Backlund's



When Skaaland and Backlund were on good terms, the manager always stood up for his man in disputes with referees. Cornette is convinced that he could help Backlund channel his anger and bend the rules more effectively.

Backlund used to spend hours going through his fan mail. These days, he gets a lot more hate mail. Cornette thinks it's great that Backlund stopped caring about the fans and says he can lead him back to the top of the WWF again.

old methods don't serve him nearly as well as they used to. He seems to be groping around for a model to follow. He needs a new way of doing things.

That's where I come in. I have a proven track record of taking men who aren't nearly as skilled as Backlund and making them champions. Take The Midnight Express, for instance. I'm not saying Bobby Eaton and Dennis Condrey were bad wrestlers, but before I put them together, they didn't have the desire to do what it took to make it big. I stepped in, and before long they were being called one of the top tag teams in the sport. Yes, I *am* that good.

A couple of years later I replaced Condrey with Stan Lane, and they exceeded even *my* expectations! It was a much stronger version of The Midnight Express, thanks to me.

If you idiots have trouble remembering back that far, maybe you're more familiar with The Heavenly Bodies. Nobody said they would amount to much. Except yours truly, of course. After watching the Bodies-Steiners match at SummerSlam '93, everybody was singing a different tune. We kicked those sissy Steiner boys' butts—and would have won those tag team belts if the Steiners hadn't paid off all of the referees and officials.

We were *so* good, in fact, that the promoters begged us to wrestle at the Survivor Series. That's when we beat The Rock 'n' Old Express for the Smoky Mountain belts.

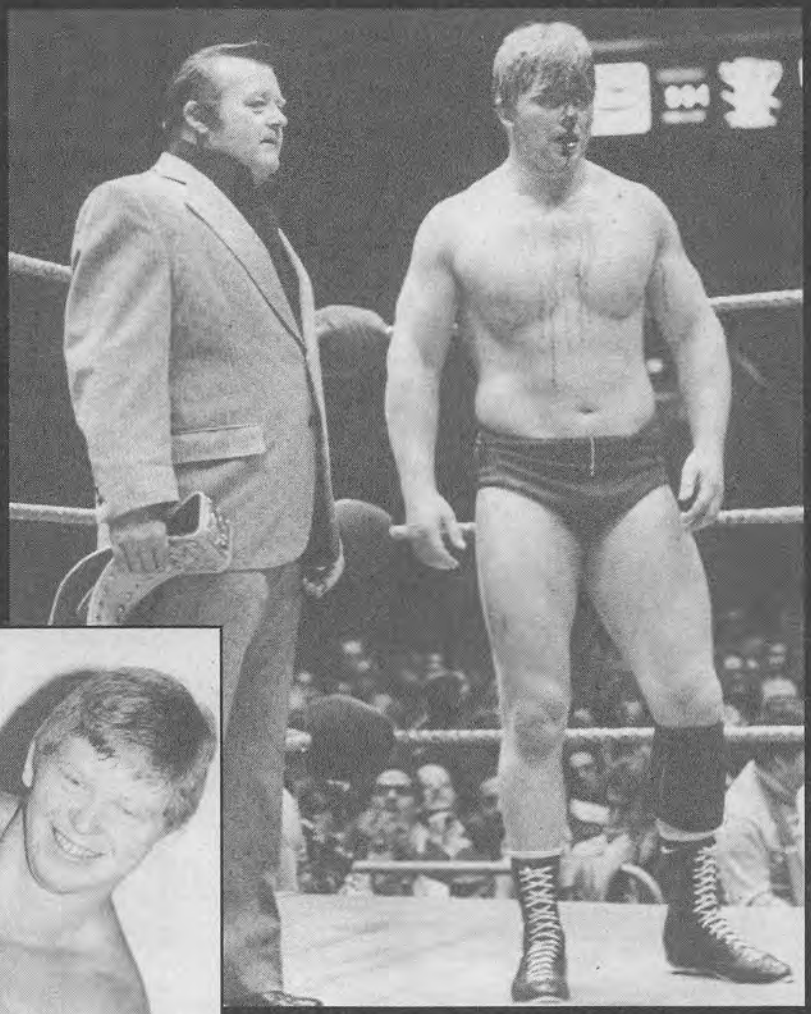
Okay, you're saying those were tag teams. How about singles wrestlers? Just look at Yokozuna. Sure, he may not hold the World title any longer, but any knowledgeable person in this business knows I gave him an extra dimension that's made him much more dangerous. And quite honestly, I still say "Speedy" Roddy Piper made a fast count at WrestleMania X, but that's another story.

Or look at The Guardian Angel. He got his start in this sport as Big Bubba Rogers, the bodyguard for me and The Midnight Express. Less than a year later, he was champion of Bill Watts' old UWF. There was a big, powerful guy who needed an edge. What's he been since he left me? Nothing but a big fat oaf.

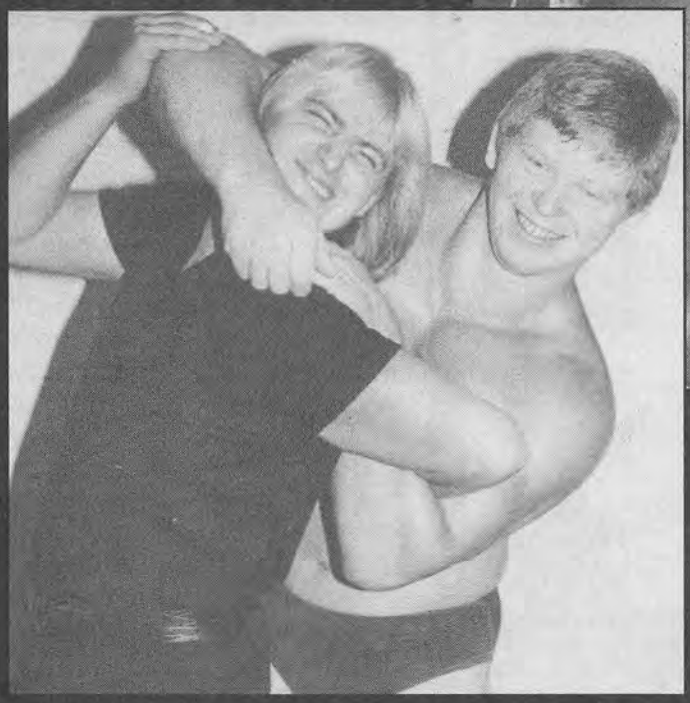
There's plenty of proof, but let's talk about the here and now. I'm convinced that I can make Bobby Backlund the next WWF World champ, one of the best ever. He'll enjoy a title reign more glorious than his first.

He's already taken a step in that direction. He despises Bret Hart, the current champion. Maybe you think he doesn't hate Hart that intensely, but I know for a fact he does. I always check these things out, and my mama taught me never to lie. Backlund is sick and tired of being an also-ran. He can't stand it when you morons call him a has-been. He's taking all that pent-up anger out on a guy who couldn't shine his shoes.

That's good. That's the right attitude. But I could see to it that Backlund channels that anger more effectively. Save that anger and



A decade ago, Backlund would jokingly demonstrate his chicken wing on people like referee Scrappy McGowan. Today, he is more likely to use the hold to try to cripple anyone who angers him.



Back in the late-1970s and early-1980s, Skaaland was at Backlund's side during the good times *and* the bad times. With his new, harsh attitude, maybe he would be a good fit in Cornette's camp!

channel it toward other opponents, the people who call themselves the best wrestlers in the WWF.

We first saw that emotion in Backlund the time he wrestled Hart this summer and refused to let him out of the chicken wing. Backlund totally lost it, and I loved it. But he got *too* carried away, probably because for so long he *never* got carried away. There's a skill in knowing when to lose it and when to keep your cool. I always instill that skill in my men.

There's much, much more I could teach Backlund. Less-educated people commonly refer to my curriculum as "cheating." That's because they're caught in the old-fashioned way of thinking. There is a science to using the rules to one's advantage. This is a rough business. It ain't no place for moral absolutes. As a manager, I'm judged on how many wins and titles I get for my men. That's the only real standard.

Backlund could be the beneficiary of my thinking. And I promise him this: When that big night comes, I will never throw in the towel. That's what Arnold Skaaland, his old manager, did. Backlund lost the championship because Skaaland flat-out quit on him. He never would have quit on his own.

But before all of this could happen, Backlund has to do just one thing. He has to say yes, as in "Yes, Jim, I need you as my manager. Let's do it."

Bobby, I know you have my number. Just pick up your phone anytime and dial up a winner. □

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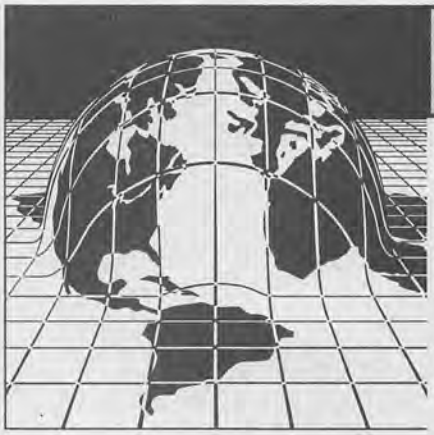


arena reports

The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly*, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO-WWF at the Arco Arena: **The Kid** & **Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly** defeated **Well Dunn** ... **Abe "Knuckleball" Schwartz** beat **Louie Spicolli** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** defeated **Owen Hart** ... World tag team champions **Shawn Michaels** & **Diesel** beat **The Headshrinkers** by disqualification ... World Women's champion **Alundra Blayze** defeated **Bull Nakano** ... World champion **Bret Hart** beat **Jim Neidhart** ... **The Undertaker** defeated **Yokozuna** in a casket match.
(09-23-94)

—Walt Simmons

FLORIDA

TAMPA—WWF at the Sundome: **Irwin R. Schyster** beat **The Kid** ... **The Bushwhackers** beat **Well Dunn** ... **Lex Luger** fought **Tatanka** to a double-countout ... **Adam Bomb** beat **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** defeated **Owen Hart** ... **The Smokin' Gunns** beat **The Heavenly Bodies** ... **Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly** defeated **Kwang The Ninja** ... World champion **Bret Hart** defeated **Jim Neidhart** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Yokozuna** in a casket match.
(10-08-94)

—Duane Long

YBOR CITY—Tampa Bay Action Sports at Blues Ship Cafe: **Jerry "Lightning Foot" Flynn** defeated **Dennis the Menace** ... **"Bad Boy" Jeff Bradley** beat **Navy Seal** ... **Dr. Buck Quartermaine** defeated **Buddy Valentine** by reverse decision ... **The Red Devil** and **Alan Iron Eagle** wrestled to a double-countout ... **Freight Train Freddie** & **Big Jim Magnum** defeated **The Lone Riders** in a first-blood no-disqualification match.
(09-28-94)

—Shannon Rose

OCALA—Extreme Championship Wrestling at Central Florida Community College: **Tasmaniac** won a battle royal ... **Tommy Dreamer** defeated **The Sandman** ... **Phi Delta Slam** beat **Ian Rotten** & **Hack Myers** ... Heavyweight champion **Shane Douglas** defeated **Tasmaniac** ... **Dory Funk Jr.** beat **Mr. Hughes** in a memorial match for **Dory Funk Sr.** and **Duke Keomuka** ... **Sabu** defeated **Ron Simmons** ... **Public Enemy** beat **The Bruise Brothers** in a falls-count-anywhere-in-Florida match when **Johnny Grunge** threw powder in **Don Harris'** eyes and pinned him.
(09-24-94)

—Ron Lemieux

TAMPA—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the Florida State Fairgrounds: **Dean Malenko** defeated **Osamu Nishimura** ... **Tasmaniac** won a battle royal, last eliminating **Mr. Hughes** ... **Ian Rotten** & **Hack Myers** beat **Phi Delta Slam** ... **The Sandman** defeated **Tommy Dreamer** ... **Dory Funk Jr.** beat **Dean Malenko** (substituting for **Pat Tanaka**) ... Heavyweight champion **Shane Douglas** defeated **Tasmaniac** ... **911** beat **Mr. Hughes** after a choke-slam ... **Sabu** defeated **Ron Simmons** ... **Public Enemy** beat **The Bruise Brothers** in a falls-count-anywhere match.
(09-23-94)

—Ron Lemieux

MIAMI—Sunshine Wrestling Federation at Tamiami Stadium: **Flex Armstrong** defeated **Punk Rock** ... Tag team champions **J.R. James** & **Matt Otto** beat **Ricky Class** & **Tony Style** ... **Larry Lane** defeated **Chris Nelson** ... **The Cuban Assassin** beat **Rusty Brooks** ... Heavyweight champion **Demon Hellstorm** defeated **Mannibal the Cannibal** by disqualification ... **Chris Nelson** won a battle royal.
(09-12-94)

—William Brown

GEORGIA

ATLANTA—*WCW Main Event* live broadcast at Center Stage Theater: TV champion **Johnny B. Badd** defeated **The Gambler** ... **Arn Anderson** (with **Col. Robert Parker** & **Meng**) defeated **Brian Armstrong** ... **The Honky Tonk Man** pinned **Kenny Kendall** ... **Hulk Hogan** & **Dave Sullivan** beat **Ric Flair** & **Masked Man** (managed by **Sherri Martel**) by disqualification when a second masked man interfered.
(10-09-94)

—Ron Richards

ATLANTA—*WCW Saturday Night* taping at Center Stage Theater: **Dave Sullivan** defeated **The Gambler** ... **Sting** defeated **Big Van Vader** by disqualification when **Harley Race** interfered. After the match, **The Guardian Angel** attacked Race (whom he handcuffed to a ringpost during the bout) with a chair ... **Brian Pillman** pinned **Frankie Lancaster** ... **Arn Anderson** beat **Barry Houston** ... **Alex Wright** beat **Buddy Wayne** ... **The Honky Tonk Man** beat **Todd Morton** ... **Jean Paul LeVeque** defeated **Kenny Kendall** by submission ... **Dustin Rhodes** defeated **Doug Aaron** ... **Kevin Sullivan** defeated **Bucky Siegler** ... **Bunkhouse Buck** & **Terry Funk** beat **Al Phillips** & **Pez Whatley** ... U.S. champion **Hacksaw Duggan** beat **Ron Oakes** ... **Dave Sullivan** pinned **Rip Rogers** ... **Frank Andersson** defeated **Mark Starr** ... **Tony Vendetta** beat **Larry Santo**.
(10-04-94)

—Alex Bogni

ROSSVILLE—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: **Dakota Outlaw** pinned **Robbie Strong** ... **Rickie Dye** & **Big Bubba Humphries** battled **Rawhead Rex** & **Danny Marlowe** to a double-disqualification ... **The Shadow** pinned light heavyweight champion **The Widowmaker** to win the title ... **"Gigolo" Joel Travis** & **Roger Sartain** defeated tag team champions **Sam** & **Cam Colt** in a non-title match when Sartain pinned Cam ... **Larry Santana, Frankie Lee,** & **Dr. Feelgood** beat **Jimmy Sharp, Kenny Arden,** & **Scotty Fernandize** when Santana pinned Fernandize.
(09-23-94)

—Bill Needham

KENTUCKY

HYDEN—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Richard M. Nixon Center: **Lance Storm** defeated **Killer Kyle** ... **Chris Candido** beat **Brian Lee** ... Heavyweight champion **Tony Anthony** defeated **Bruiser Bedlam** by disqualification ... **Brian Lee** & **Tony Anthony** beat **The Gangstas** when Lee pinned **New Jack.**
(09-23-94)

—Millicent Gillingham

GLASGOW—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Armory: **Killer Kyle** defeated **Lance Storm** ... **Chris Candido** beat **Brian Lee** ... Heavyweight champion **Tony Anthony** defeated **Bruiser Bedlam** by disqualification ... Tag team champions **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **The Gangstas** when **Robert Gibson** pinned **Mustafa Saed** ... **Brian Lee** won a battle royal.
(09-22-94)

—Millicent Gillingham

MICHIGAN

TAYLOR—Midwest Territorial Wrestling at the Sheridan Community Center: **J.T. Lightning** defeated **Brett Powers** ... **Bobby Clancy** beat **Chris Pillon** ... **Denny Kass** defeated **Jake LeDuc** ... **Rock Stevens** beat **Steve Nixon** ... **Scott Summers** defeated **Mad Man Pondo** ... **Scott D'Amore** & **Otis Apollo** battled **Chris Carter** & **Muhammad Saad** to a no-contest ... **Mike Kelly** beat **Bobo Brazil Jr.**
(09-17-94)

—Ernie Avery

TAYLOR—NWA at the Sheridan Community Center: **Mickey Davis** defeated **Bobby Clancy** ... **Ray Roberts** beat **Jimmy V** ... **Otis Apollo** & **Steve Nixon** defeated **Lance Gunn** & **Rick Matrix** ... **Osamu Nishimura** beat **Ray Roberts**

... **Sean Brown** battled **Brian Rollins** to a double-countout in a hair vs. hair match ... **Al Snow** defeated **Tommy Dreamer** ... **Sabu** beat **Tasmaniac** in a Tasmanian death match.
(09-16-94)

—Ernie Avery

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS—Pro Wrestling America at the Northeast Armory: **Brian Blade** pinned **Bret Maverick** ... **T. Rex** pinned **Scott Soulak** ... **Randy Gusto** defeated **The Chosen One** ... **Tony the Annihilator** beat **Red Tyler** ... **Tommy Ferrara** defeated **Dan Jesser** ... Tag team champions **The Storm Troopers** beat **The Hater** & **The Punisher**.
(10-08-94)

—Eddie Sharkey

BAUDETTE—Pro Wrestling America at the Ice Arena: **T. Rex** pinned **Scott Serlack Jerry Lynn** and **J.B. Trask** wrestled to a double-disqualification ... **Storm Trooper I** pinned **The Chosen One** ... **The Punisher** beat **Storm Trooper II** ... **The Punisher** won an eight-man battle royal, last eliminating **Randy Gusto.**
(09-24-94)

—Eddie Sharkey

NORTH CAROLINA

FOREST CITY—Pro Wrestling Federation at the National Guard Armory: **Brian Williams** defeated **Black Scorpion** ... **Russian Assassin II** beat **The Southern Rocker** ... **Greg Hart** beat **The Moose** ... Tag team champions **Star Ryder** & **Randy Sledge** beat **The Super Ninjas** ... Heavyweight champion **Italian Stallion** defeated **Terry Austin** by disqualification ... **Chris Hamrick** wrestled **Scott Powers** to a no-contest.
(10-08-94)

—Dan Parris

GREENSBORO—WCW at the Coliseum: **Alex Wright** beat **Bobby Eaton** ... TV champion **Johnny B. Badd** beat **Lord Steven Regal** ... World tag team champions **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** & **The Patriot** defeated **Paul Orndorff** & **Paul Roma** ... **Dustin Rhodes** & **The Nasty Boys** beat **Bunkhouse Buck**, **Col. Robert Parker**, & **Arn Anderson** ... U.S. champion **Hacksaw Duggan** beat **Steve Austin** by disqualification ... **Sting** defeated **Ric Flair**.
(10-06-94)

—Sarah Baum

MORGANTON—Smoky Mountain Wrestling TV taping at the Collette Street Rec Center: **Brian Logan** defeated **The Inferno** ... **Tracey Smothers** beat **George South** ... Tag team champions **The Gangstas** defeated **Sean Casey** & **Brian Logan** ... **Bryant Anderson** beat **Steve Skyfire** ... **Scott Studd** defeated **Boo Bradley** (managed by **Tammy Fytch**) ... **Cactus Jack** beat **Chad Austin** ... **Scott Studd** and **Sean Casey** wrestled to a no-contest when **Boo Bradley** interfered and attacked both men ... **Brian Lee** & **Lance Storm** defeated **George South** & **Steve Skyfire** ... Heavyweight champion **Tony Anthony** (managed by **Ron Wright**) defeated **Bruiser Bedlam** (managed by **Jim Cornette**) in a "whipping" match ... **Bryant Anderson** beat **Scott Studd** ... **Chad Austin** defeated **Bruiser Bedlam** by disqualification ... **Brian Lee** & **Lance Storm** defeated **Brian Logan** & **The Inferno** ... **Boo Bradley** beat **Chad Austin** ... **Bryant Anderson** defeated **Sean Casey** ... **Bryant Anderson** defeated **Tracey Smothers**.
(10-03-94)

—Greg Martin

HICKORY—Championship Wrestling Alliance at the National Guard Armory: **American G.I.** & **Killdozer** beat tag team champions **The Texas Outlaws** to win the belts ... **The Moondog** beat **Jay Eagle** ... **Chris Hamrick** beat **Texas Outlaw I** by disqualification ... **O.L. Cool** & **Emilio Ulacia** beat **Mr. Vegas** & **The Eliminator**.
(10-01-94)

—Dan Parris

PFAFFTOWNE—AIWF at the Community Center: ***In the quarterfinals of a tournament for the new AIWF U.S. title:*** **The Intimidator** beat **Brian Danzig** ... **Don Carson** defeated **The Black Knight** ... **Chuck the Kosher Killer** beat **Johnny Reb** ... **Robert Roma** defeated **Jammer** after **Bad Brad** interfered ... ***In the semifinals of the tournament:*** Carson beat Intimidator by countout ... Roma defeated Chuck The Kosher Killer ... ***In the tournament final:*** Carson beat Roma to become the initial U.S. champion ... ***In non-tournament matches:*** Heavyweight champion **Boston Terrier** beat **Sebastian Kane** ... **Major Havoc** won an eight-man battle royal, last eliminating **Pete Powers**.
(09-24-94)

—Dean Puckett

GLEN ALPINE—New World Wrestling at the Am-Vet Center: **Gorgeous Jeff** pinned **Sweet Daddy Brown** ... **Randy Sledge** beat **The Crucifer** ... **Tenacious Tony** defeated **The Professor** ... **Dangerous Donny** pinned **Mad Dog** ... ICW heavyweight champion **"Mean" Marc Ash** defeated **The Crucifer** ... **Dangerous Donny** beat **The Grappler** ... **Too Funky** beat **Sweet Daddy Brown** ... **Gentleman James** pinned **Man X** ... **Tenacious Tony** beat **Invader I**.
(09-18-94)

—Mickey Spencer

NEW BERN—ICW at the Armory: **Crypt Keeper** defeated **Brad Windham** ... **Agent Steel** beat **David Daniels** ... Women's champion **Dark Angel** defeated **Mandy Logan** ... **Johnny Blare** & **Johnny Dollars** defeated tag team champions **The Heartbreakers** to win the title ... **Iranian Butcher** beat TV champ **Lex Reed** to win the title ... Heavyweight champion **"Mean" Marc Ash** pinned **Gentleman James**.
(09-17-94)

—Mickey Spencer

TRINITY—ACW "Back To School Bash" at the High School: **Dan Cooley** defeated **Bonecrusher** ... **"Mad Dog" Davidson** battled **Hammerman** to a double-countout ... **Jimmy Valiant** & **Pat Friday** beat **Mr. Fancy** & **Dr. Lee Love** (substituting for **Buddy Landell**) when Valiant pinned Love ... **The Heartbreak Express** defeated **Tim Blaze** & **Ivan Koloff** (in his last scheduled match) when Koloff took a $10,000 retirement offer by Express manager **Dr. Lee Love** and left the ring, leaving Blaze defenseless ... **Wahoo McDaniel** & **Les Parker** beat **Billy Jack Black** & **The Barbarian** when McDaniel pinned Barbarian ... **Billy Jack Black** won a $5,000 battle royal. All four members of **Love Connection** were left at the end, but were told they could not split the purse. After Black won, the other members of Love Connection ripped up his check.
(09-17-94)

—Ron Powell

NEW JERSEY

LAKE HIAWATHA—ECPW at the ECPW Arena: **Bobby Piper** defeated **Mr. Motion** ... **Johnny Dreamer** beat **The Bayou Hunter** ... **Captain Jack** beat **Ken Porter** ... **Quick 'n' Deadly** beat **Devon Storm** & **Inferno II** ... **Inferno Kid** beat **Ken Sweeney** ... **Gino Caruso** defeated heavyweight champion **Rocky Jones** to win the title ... **The Blackjacks** defeated **Toxic Todd** & **The Metalhead** in a Texas bullrope, Indian strap match ... **Fabulous Firehawk** defeated **The Bulldozer** ... **War Zone** beat **Rocky Dorsey** ... **Mad Dog** beat **Johnny Angel** ... **NC-17** and **Hambone Harris** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Vinnie Powers** defeated **Jackknife Johnny** ... **Mike Stone** defeated **C.J. Summers**.
(09-21-94)

—Johnny Gnat

NEW YORK

UTICA—*WWF Monday Night Raw* broadcast and taping at the Memorial Auditorium: Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** beat **Owen Hart** ... **Doink the Clown** pinned **Barry Horowitz** ... **Alundra Blayze** & **Heidi Lee Morgan** beat **Luna Vachon** & **Bull Nakano** when Blayze pinned Vachon ... **Bob Backlund** beat **Gary Scott** by submission to the chicken wing ... **Lex Luger** beat **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... **Mabel** pinned **Reno Riggins** ... **Owen Hart** beat **John Crystal** ... **King Kong Bundy** beat **Mike Khoury** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** defeated **Tatanka** (managed by **Ted DiBiase**) by countout ... **Kwang the Ninja** (managed by **Harvey Wippleman**) beat **Rich Myers** ... **The Kid** beat **Kerry Davis** ... World tag team champions **Diesel** & **Shawn Michaels** beat **Chris Canyon** & **Bob Starr** ... Headshrinkers **Fatu** & **Sionne** beat **Cory Student** & **J.S. Storm** ... **Lex Luger** beat **Tatanka** by countout ... **Davey Boy Smith** beat **Jim Neidhart** by disqualification when **Owen Hart** interfered ... **The Undertaker** beat **Yokozuna** in a casket match ... **Owen Hart** beat **Bob Backlund**.
(09-26-94)

—John Rosenberg

PENNSYLVANIA

GLEN MILLS—Extreme Championship Wrestling at Pulsations: **J.T. Smith** beat **Tony Stetson** ... **Tasmaniac** beat **Donn E. Allen** ... **Tommy Dreamer** beat **Steve Richards** ... TV champion **Jason** beat **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **Public Enemy** beat **Axl** & **Ian Rotten** ... **Cactus Jack** beat **Mr. Hughes**.
(10-04-94)

—Tom Fortorna

LEWISTOWN—American Commonwealth Wrestling's "Fall Wrestlefest '94" card at the high school: **Stone Cold** defeated **The Comet** ... **Glenn Osbourne** beat **Max Thrasher** ... **Lord Zoltan** pinned light heavyweight champion **"Luscious" Johnny Graham** to win the title ... Heavyweight champion **T. Rantula** (managed by **The Black Widow**) defeated **Future Shock** (managed by **Dr. Sam Siegel**) ... **Kiki Samoa** beat **Frankie "Third Degree" Burns** in a midget match ... **Tito Santana** beat **Rick Martel** by disqualification ... **Johnny Gunn**, **Doink the Clown**, & **Ramblin' Rich** beat **The Goodfellas** & **Scotty Flamingo** ... **Hacksaw Duggan** defeated **Mr. Hughes** by disqualification when **Rick Martel** interfered.
(10-01-94)

—Timothy A. Walker

PHILADELPHIA—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the ECW Arena: **Matt Borne** pinned **Ray Odyssey** ... **Ian** & **Axl Rotten** beat **The Pit Bulls** ... **The Rockin' Rebel** battled **Steve Richards** to a no-contest ... TV champion **Jason** pinned **Hack Myers** after **Dean Malenko** interfered... **Dean Malenko** beat **Dino Sendoff** & **Donn E. Allen** in a handicap match ... **Tommy Dreamer** beat **The Sandman** in an "I Quit" match when he hit Sandman in the eye with a lit cigarette that Sandman had come into the ring with ... Heavyweight champion **Shane Douglas** beat **2 Cold Scorpio** ... **Chris Benoit** beat **Sabu** when the referee stopped Sabu from competing because he was coughing up blood ... Tag team champions **Cactus Jack** & **Mikey Whipwreck** beat **Public Enemy**.
(10-01-94)

—Bart Orkline

PITTSBURGH—WWF at Civic Arena: **Jeff Jarrett** beat **Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly** ... **Adam Bomb** beat **Johnny Polo** ... **The Bushwhackers** defeated **Well Dunn** ... **Mabel** beat **Kwang the Ninja** ... World tag team champions **Diesel** & **Shawn Michaels** beat **Headshrinkers Fatu** & **Sionne** ... World

Women's champion **Alundra Blayze** beat **Bull Nakano** ... World champion **Bret Hart** beat **Jim Neidhart** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Yokozuna** in a casket match.
(09-30-94)

—Mary Tatum

DOWNINGTOWN—World Wide Wrestling Alliance at the Farmers' Market: **Mad Russian** defeated **The Overlord** ... **Glenn Osbourne** beat **Super Nova** ... **Mr. Motion** defeated **Inferno Kid** ... **The Diamond Express** defeated **Rolling Thunder** ... **Harley Lewis** and **Mr. Haiti** wrestled to a double-disqualification ... Light heavyweight champion **Ace Darling** defeated **Ghetto Blaster** after Blaster's manager, **Donnie B. Deviously**, accidentally hit his own man with a pool cue ... **Johnny Rebel** defeated **Joey Traquola** ... Intercontinental champion **Jack Hammer** and **S.D. Jones** wrestled to a double-disqualification when **Diamond Mike** and **Mr. Haiti** interfered.
(09-17-94)

—Dan Haney

RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE—WWF at the Civic Center: **The Bushwhackers** defeated **Well Dunn** when **Luke Williams** pinned **Steven Dunn** ... **Jeff Jarrett** beat **Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly** by submission with a figure-four leglock ... **Mabel** pinned **Kwang the Ninja** ... **Adam Bomb** pinned **Johnny Polo** ... World Women's champion **Alundra Blayze** defeated **Bull Nakano** ... World tag team champions **Diesel** & **Shawn Michaels** beat **The Headshrinkers** by disqualification ... **The Undertaker** defeated **Yokozuna** in a casket match ... World champion **Bret Hart** beat **Jim Neidhart**. Before the match, Neidhart and **Jeff Jarrett** pounded Hart for several minutes.
(09-29-94)

—Karen A. Briggs & Jeff Belair

SOUTH CAROLINA

BUFFALO—Big-Time Wrestling at the Community Center: **R.C. Nelson** beat **Rick Nelson** ... **"Butcher" Bob Blackwell** defeated **Scotty Nighttrain** ... **Johnny Red Cloud** beat **D.L. Cool** ... **Chris Hamrick** defeated **The Rebel** ... **The Texas Outlaws** beat **Stone Cold Kid** & **Dozer** ... **Jay Eagle** defeated **Mad Dog** in a falls-count-anywhere match ... **Chris Hamrick** won a 14-man battle royal.
(09-17-94)

—Dan Parris

TENNESSEE

JOHNSON CITY—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Freedom Hall: **Anthony Michaels** beat **Steve Skyfire** ... **Tracey Smothers** wrestled to a time-limit draw with **Bryant Anderson** ... **Boo Bradley** defeated **Lance Storm** ... **Bruiser Bedlam** beat heavyweight champion **Tony Anthony** by disqualification ... Tag team champions **The Gangstas** beat **The Rock 'n' Roll Express**.
(10-08-94)

—Mike Crawford

MORRISTOWN—United Atlantic Wrestling at the Talley Ward Building: **Johnny Raynor** pinned **Steve Hart** ... **The Hornet** beat **Keith Hart** ... **Mongolian Stomper** beat **Eddie Golden** ... **Scott Armstrong** & **Tim Horner** defeated **Killer Kyle** & **Kendo** when Horner pinned Kendo ... **Tim Horner** won a 10-man battle royal.
(10-08-94)

—Bill Needham

SPARTA—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the White County junior high school: **Tracey Smothers** wrestled to a time-limit draw with **Bryant Anderson** ... **Lance Storm** defeated **Boo Bradley** ... Heavyweight champion **Tony Anthony** beat **Bruiser Bedlam** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat tag team champions **The Gangstas** by disqualification ... **Tracey Smothers** won a battle royal.
(10-07-94)

—Larry Goshen

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: ***In the first round of a tournament for the vacant Southern title:*** **Buddy Landell** defeated **Eliminator Cronus** ... **Eliminator Saturn** beat **Jeff Gaylord** ... **Moondog Rex** beat **Spellbinder** ... **Doug Gilbert** defeated **Moondog Spot** by disqualification ... **Jerry Lawler** and **Tommy Rich** wrestled to a time-limit draw, but Rich advanced to the second round by winning a coin flip ... ***In second-round matches:*** Landell defeated Saturn ... Rex beat Doug Gilbert by disqualification ... Rich beat **Brian Christopher** (who received a bye in the first round) by disqualification ... ***In the semifinals:*** Rich beat Rex (Landell received a bye) ... ***In the finals:*** Rich beat Landell to win the belt ... ***In non-tournament matches:*** **PG-13** & **Miss Texas** beat **The Phantoms** & **Fantasia** in a mixed tag team match ... **Randy Hales** defeated **Scott Bowden** by disqualification ... **Sid Vicious** & **Doug Gilbert** beat **Jerry Lawler** & **Brian Christopher** in a stretcher match.
(10-03-94)

—Mark Mitchell

ELIZABETHTON—All-Pro Wrestling at the Gap Creek Community Center: **The Tennessee Bad Boys** beat **Ultimate Nightmare** & **The Stallion** when **Bad Boy II** pinned Nightmare ... **The Stalker** & **Cowboy Williams** defeated **The Troublemakers** when Williams pinned **Troublemaker I** ... **Chris Steelhart** pinned **Ghost Rider** ... **Storm Shadow** beat **Dan Landell** ... **Cherokee Renegade** & **Alex Shane** defeated **Allen King** & **Ricky Harrison** when Shane pinned Harrison ... **Keith Hart** & **Chris Steelhart** battled **Eddie Golden** & **Stan Lee** to a double-countout ... **Mike** & **Sam Spade** beat **Chainz** & **Killer Kyle** when Kyle left the ring to go to the dressing room as Chainz was counted out.
(09-24-94)

—Bill Needham

FAIRVIEW—Cumberland Wrestling Council at the Young County Barn: **Denny Cooley** pinned **Timothy Shawn** ... **Chris Steelhart** beat **Soldier of Fortune II** ... **Kevin Acres** pinned **Shogun Warrior I** ... **Rick Roberts** defeated **Stonewall Jackson** by disqualification ... **Chris Steelhart** beat junior heavyweight champion **The Mountain Man** by countout ... **Gabe Costeel** defeated **Joe Carr** ... **Denny Cooley** & **Steve Stakk** beat **The Shogun Warriors** by disqualification.
(09-19-94)

—Bill Needham

MARYVILLE—All-State Wrestling at the Country Palace: **David O** defeated **Junior Wright** ... **Lynn Montana** battled **Steve Flynn** to a 15-minute time-limit draw ... **Dennis "The Tank" Coats** pinned **Phoenix** ... **Bobby B** beat **Russell Thompson** ... **Chic White** pinned heavyweight champion **Tony Prichard** in a non-title match ... Light heavyweight champion **Shogun I** battled **Charlie Long** to a double-disqualification ... ASW Commissioner **E.F. Hutton** awarded the tag team belts to **Regulators Stone** & **Steel** after **Rick Conners** did not show up to defend the title with partner **Lone Star**.
(09-15-94)

—Bill Needham

VIRGINIA

ROANOKE—WCW Fall Brawl pay-per-view at the Roanoke Civic Center: In a non-televised match, **Brian** & **Brad Armstrong** defeated **Bobby Eaton** & **Steve Keirn** when Brian pinned Eaton ... **Johnny B. Badd** beat TV champion **Lord Steven Regal** to win the title at 11:09 after a backslide ... **Kevin Sullivan** defeated **Cactus Jack** in 6:12 in a loser-leaves-WCW match. Cactus tried to hit Sullivan's brother Dave, who was on the ring apron, but the attempt backfired ... **Steve Austin** was awarded the U.S. title by forfeit when champion **Rick Steamboat** showed up in street clothes and revealed he could not compete due to a back injury. Commissioner **Nick Bockwinkel** forced Austin to defend the title against **Hacksaw Duggan**, who pinned Austin in 27 seconds to win the belt ... World tag team champions **Paul Roma** & **Paul Orndorff** beat **The Patriot** & **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** when Roma pinned Bagwell at 12:54 ... In the "triangular" match to determine a challenger for **Hulk Hogan's** World title, **Big Van Vader** beat **The Guardian Angel** in 7:04; Vader then scored the victory over **Sting** in a sudden death round after no winner had been declared when the 15-minute time limit and a five-minute overtime round had taken place ... In the War Games bout, the team of **Dusty Rhodes, Dustin Rhodes,** & **The Nasty Boys** beat **Col. Robert Parker, Terry Funk, Bunkhouse Buck,** & **Arn Anderson** when Dusty forced Parker to submit to a figure-four leglock.
(09-18-94)

—David Roberson & Brandon Seth Apter

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

CORNWALL—WWF at the Civic Complex: **Abe Schwartz** beat **P.J. Walker** ... **Doink the Clown** beat **Nikolai Volkoff** ... **Tatanka** beat **Duke Droese** ... **The Smokin' Gunns** beat **The Heavenly Bodies** ... **Pierre** beat Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** by countout ... **Owen Hart** beat **The Kid**.
(10-01-94)

—Jason McClure

WINNIPEG—River City Wrestling at the Chalmers Community Center: **Sluggo Smith** defeated **The Executioner** by countout ... **Steve Stryker** battled **Robbie Royce** to a double-countout ... **Jason the Terrible** beat **Brian Jewel** by disqualification ... **Vance Nevada** defeated **Mr. Go** ... **Sgt. Steele** fought **Max Impact** to a double-disqualification ... **Wildman Firpo** beat **Vance Nevada** ... **Leather** & **Lace** defeated **Todd Bullitt** & **Caveman Broda** ... **Jason the Terrible** beat **Crybaby Levinsky.**
(09-20-94)

—Jason Mason

CALGARY—Rocky Mountain Wrestling at the Victoria Community Center: **Eric Freeze** wrestled to a draw with **Steve Rivers** ... **Don McCulla** beat **Wilfe Jackson** ... **Jason Helton** beat **Johnny Ray Coaltrain** ... **Steve Gillespie** & **Katana** beat **Steve Wild** & **Chris Kramer** ... Tag team champions **Rob Austin** & **Sonny Corleone** beat **Big Bart** & **Randy Rudd** by disqualification ... **Rick Titan** fought **Jason the Terrible** to a double-disqualification.
(09-16-94)

—Verne May

GERMANY

DORTMUND—WCW at the Sporthalle: **Hacksaw Duggan** defeated **Dallas Page** ... **The Nasty Boys** beat **Kevin** & **Dave Sullivan** ... **Brian Pillman** defeated TV champion **Lord Steven Regal** in a non-title match ... **The Patriot** & **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** beat World tag team champions **Paul Roma** & **Paul Orndorff** in a non-title match ... **Big Van Vader** defeated **The Guardian Angel** ... **Sting** beat **Steve Austin** ... World champion **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Ric Flair.**
(09-14-94)

—Hermann Herr

JAPAN

TAKAOKA—All-Japan at the Gym: **Masao Inoue** beat **Kentaro Shiga** ... **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi** beat **Chris Candido** ... **The Eagle** & **The Falcon** beat **Masa Fuchi** & **Yoshinari Ogawa** ... **Mighty Inoue** & **Haruka Eigen** beat **Rusher Kimura** & **Mitsuro Momota** ... **Dory Funk Jr.** & **Johnny Smith** beat **Dan Spivey** & **Tom Zenk** ... **Dan Kroffat** & **Doug Furnas** beat **Jun Akiyama** & **Satoru Asako** ... **Toshiaki Kawada** & **Akira Taue** beat **Steve Williams** & **Johnny Ace** ... **Giant Baba, Stan Hansen,** & **Takao Omori** beat **Mitsuharu Misawa, Kenta Kobashi,** & **Tamon Honda.**
(10-04-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

NAGASAKI—WAR at the Gym: **Lady Apache** beat **Pantera Surena** ... **Arashi** beat **Nobukazu Hirai** ... **Vampiro Canadiense** defeated **Top Gun** ... **Koki Kitahara** defeated **Masao Orihara** ... **Kendo Nagasaki** beat **Dick Murdoch** ... **Ultimo Dragon** defeated **Dos Caras** ... **Hiromichi Fuyuki** & **Gedo** beat **Bob Backlund** & **Animal Hamaguchi** ... **Genichiro Tenryu** defeated **Ashura Hara.**
(10-03-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

KOBE—New Japan at Kobe World Memorial Hall: **Hiro Saito** pinned **El Samurai** ... **Takayuki Iizuka** defeated **Yuji Nagata** ... **El Gigante** beat **Tadao Yasuda** & **Black Cat** in a handicap match ... **Satoru Kojima** & **Hiroshi Hase** defeated **Kantaro Hoshino** & **Kotetsu Yamamoto** when Hase pinned Yamamoto ... **El Gran Hamoda** & **Norio Honaga** beat **Tokimitsu Ishizawa** & **Shinichiro Otani** when Hamoda pinned Ishizawa ... **Shinya Hashimoto** & **Manabe Nakanichi** defeated **Road Warrior Hawk** & **Black Tiger** when Hashimoto pinned Tiger ... **The Great Muta** pinned **Osamu Kido** (substituting for the injured **Jushin Liger**) ... **Scott Norton** beat **Masa Chono** by disqualification ... **Hiroshi Hase, Riki Choshu,** & **Tatsumi Fujinami** defeated **Chris Benoit** & **Rick** & **Scott Steiner** when Choshu pinned Benoit.
(09-26-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

KOSHIMA—Michinoku Pro at the Gym: **Wellington Wilkens Jr.** beat **Yakushiji** ... **Shizaki Jinsei** pinned **Hoshikawa** ... **Shiryu, Terry Boy,** & **Sato** defeated **Gran Naniwa, Tsurako,** & **Superboy** when Sato pinned Naniwa ... **Taka Michinoku** & **Super Delphin** beat **Hanzo Nakajima** & **The Great Sasuke** when Michinoku pinned Nakajima.
(09-26-94)

—Hikari Inoue

KIRYU—FMW at the Gym: **Masato Tanaka** beat **Gosaku Goshagawara** ... **Mach Hayato** & **Battle Ranger** defeated **Cockroach I** & **Damian** ... **Ricky Fuji** beat **Koji Nakagawa** ... **Keiko Iwame, Tsuppari Mack,** & **Shark Tsuchiya** defeated **Mayumi Shimizu, Combat Toyoda,** & **Megumi Kido** ... **Tarzan Goto** & **Hisakatsu Oya** beat **Katsutoshi Niiyama** & **Mitsuhiro Matsunaga** ... **Atsushi Onita, Sambo Asako,** & **Mr. Gannosuke** defeated **Hideki Hosaka, The Gladiator,** & **Mr. Pogo** in a no-rope, barbed-wire, street-fight, tornado death match.
(09-22-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

TOKYO—All-Japan Women at Korakuen Hall: **Kanayama** pinned **Tamara** ... **Chaparita Asari, Meekawa,** & **Shiina** beat **Rie Tamada, Tomoko Watanabe,** & **Endo** when Asari pinned Tamada ... **Aja Kong** & **Reggie Bennett** defeated **Kaoru Ito** & **Tomoko Watanabe** when Kong pinned Ito ... **Toshiyo Yamada** pinned **Mariko Yoshida** in a challenge bout ... **Kyoko Inoue** & **Takako Inoue** beat WWWA tag team champions **Mima Shimoda** & **Etsuko Mita** to win the belts when Kyoko pinned Mita ... **Yumiko Hotta** & **Minami Suzuka** defeated **Manami Toyota** & **Sakie Hasegawa** when Minami pinned Toyota.
(09-15-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

MEXICO

MEXICO CITY—EMLL at Arena Mexico: **Ultimatura** & **Olympus** beat **Astro Jr.** & **Escudero Rojo** ... **Cyclon Ramirez, Justiciero,** & **La Sombra** defeated **Espectro Jr., Felino,** & **Cadaver de Ultratumba** ... **Dandy, Apollo Dantes,** & **Americo Rocca** defeated **Bostia Salvaje, Javier Cruz,** & **Jaque Mate** ... **Silver King, Brazo de Oro,** & **Brazo de Plata** beat **The Headhunters,** & **El Brazo** by disqualification ... **Miguel Perez Jr., Ricky Santana,** & **El Satanico** beat **Emilio Charles Jr., Negro Casas,** & **Rayo de Jalisco Jr.**
(10-07-94)

—Renaldo Porte

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN—WWF at the Exhibition & Conference Center: **Irwin R. Schyster** pinned **The Kid** ... World Women's champion **Alundra Blayze** pinned **Bull Nakano** ... **The Undertaker** (managed by **Paul Bearer**) beat **Yokozuna** in a casket match ... World tag team champions **Shawn Michaels** & **Diesel** defeated **Lex Luger** & **Razor Ramon** by disqualification ... **Jeff Jarrett** pinned **Doink the Clown** ... **Mabel** pinned **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... **Bret Hart** & **Davey Boy Smith** beat **Owen Hart** & **Jim Neidhart** when Smith pinned Owen.
(09-15-94)

—Dougie Donnelly

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY DECEMBER

FLORIDA

MIAMI BEACH—NWA at the Auditorium: **Ken Lusk** pinned **Duke Myers** ... **Mr. Wrestling** defeated **Ole Anderson** ... **Ron Garvin** and **Al Smith** wrestled to a draw ... **Johnny Walker** beat **Al Smith** ... **Buddy** & **Ron Fuller** beat **Mike** & **Pat Kelly** ... **The Alaskans** defeated **The Australians** ... **Louie Tillet** & **Bearcat Wright** beat **Bobby Duncum** & **Johnny King.**
(12-08-71)

—PWI archives

MASSACHUSETTS

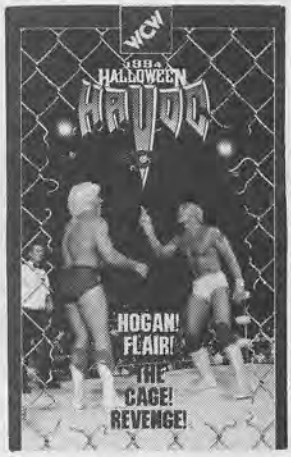
BOSTON—WWWF at Boston Garden: **Tony Garea** defeated **Chuck O'Connor** ... **Little Beaver** & **Haiti Kid** beat **Little Brutus** & **Sky Low Low** ... **Joe Turco** beat **Vince Pometti** ... **Ray Stevens** defeated **Sonny King** ... World champion **Pedro Morales** beat **Buddy Wolff** ... World tag team champions **Mr. Fuji** & **Prof. Toru Tanaka** beat **Gorilla Monsoon** & **El Olympico.**
(12-15-72)

—Steve Ober

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA—NWA at the Civic Center: **Denny Brown** beat **Hector Guerrero** ,,, **Jimmy Valiant** beat **Shaska Whatley** ... **Brad Armstrong** & **Tim Horner** defeated **Ivan Koloff** & **Krusher Krushchev** ... **Barry Windham** defeated **The Barbarian** ... **Dusty Rhodes** & **The Road Warriors** beat **The Midnight Express** & **Big Bubba Rogers** ... **Nikita Koloff** defeated World champion **Ric Flair** by disqualification ... **Dusty Rhodes** won a bunkhouse stampede.
(12-13-86)

—John Rivers



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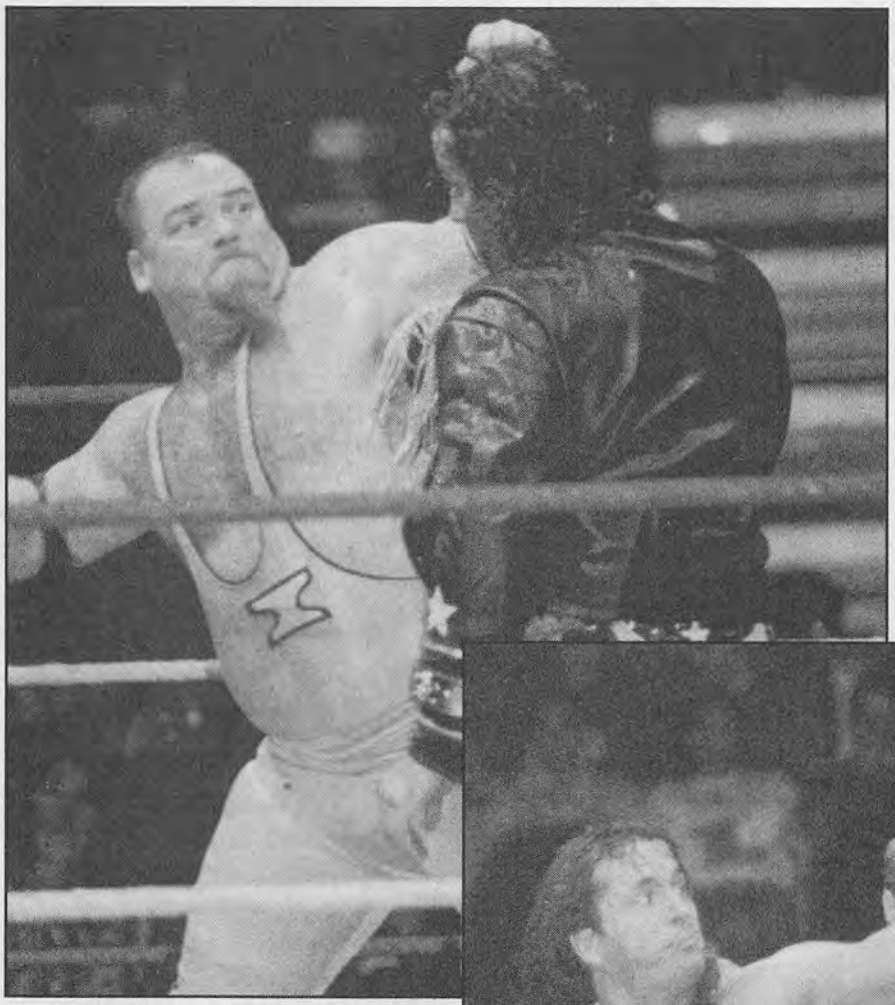


Jim Neidhart is now getting most of the title shots against Hart. Bret says they never argued when they were together as The Hart Foundation, and he was shocked to see his brother-in-law join Owen in attacks against him.

HART: I never assumed that until King of the Ring. Owen and Jim became good friends when they were The New Foundation. Jim had a falling-out with the promotion and left on a bad note. Owen was very sympathetic to Jim's cause; they were really close, as I also was with Jim. I never sensed he had bad feelings toward me. If anything, I felt he was very supportive of me.

APTER: What would happen if Jim Neidhart beat you for the title, or if Owen beat you? Would their bond remain?

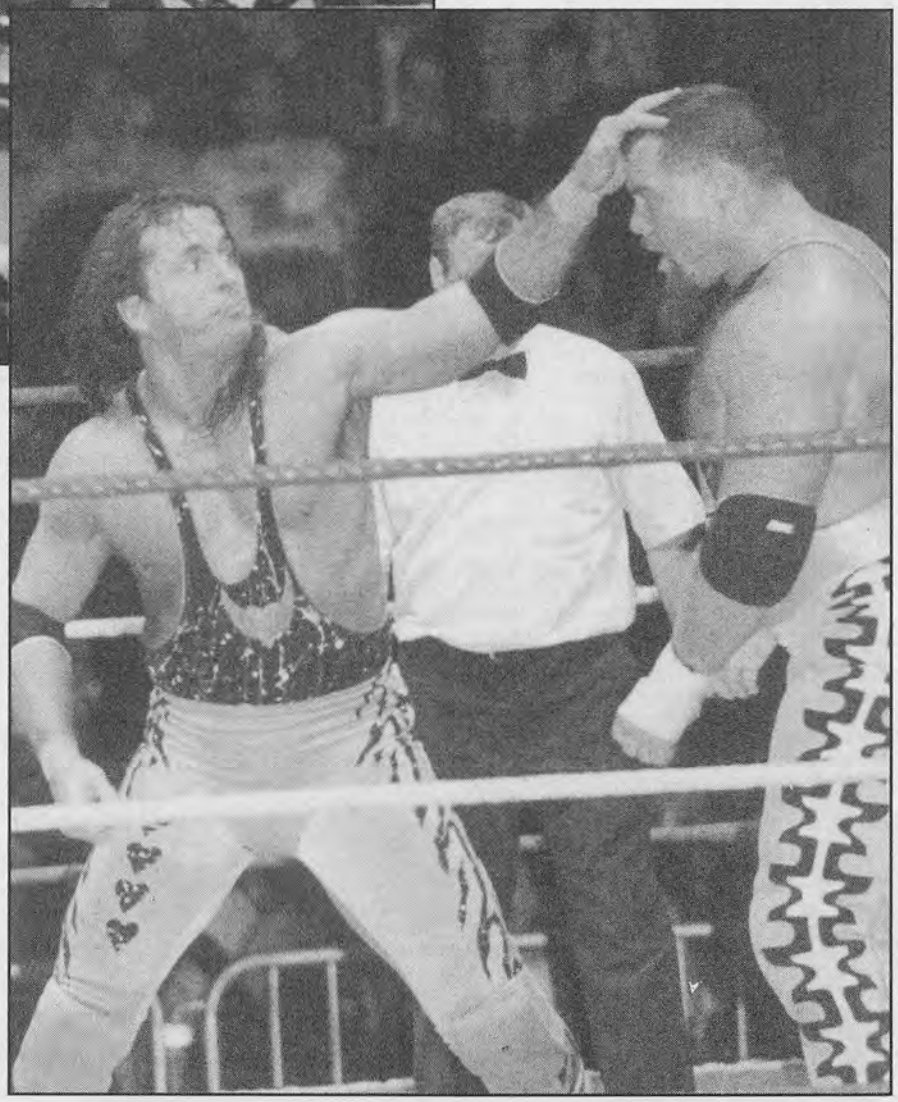
HART: Their friendship would end right there.

APTER: We feel that Owen has gotten too many title shots. What do you think?

HART: It's time to move on. I'd like to end it. I was never comfortable from the onset of this thing, fighting family members. No one is more tired of this than I am. I respect Owen's wrestling ability, but I want to go on to new challenges. I'm anxious to head to fresh water now.

APTER: Owen has failed to win both your belt and Razor Ramon's Intercontinental title. If he were standing face-to-face with you, what would you say to him?

HART: The difference between Owen and me is that Owen has no



Hart has faced Diesel several times during the last year, and is impressed by the rulebreaker's size and strength. He predicts a bright future for the former Intercontinental champ.

support anymore. You don't realize how important that is until it is gone. The fan support makes an incredible difference. They can bring you back to life during a match when you think it's lost, when you feel like giving up. In Owen's case, he has no fan support. He's got to get that back again.

APTER: During the holidays, your parents will undoubtedly be calling all the family members together. What will happen with you and Owen and Neidhart?

HART: I am open to ... all Owen has to do ... I mean, forgiveness is a big word. I would be willing to bury the hatchet at any time. I could see Christmas as a great time for that. I don't foresee this. But I am not the problem. I don't think Owen will want to shake hands and make up. I would welcome it. I think he realizes that at home, it's got to be a truce. He'll be there with his son and his wife and hopefully will leave his anger in the locker room. My folks have a big house, so we may not have too much face-to-face contact. It's a shame. Sometimes we're booked on the same flights together and we just don't communicate. There's just an eerie silence there.

APTER: Did you bring Davey Boy Smith into the feud?

HART: Yes, I did. I wanted him at King of the Ring, not Neidhart, because Davey was familiar with Diesel's past. I was talked into letting Jim become my sidekick instead. I just said okay. As you know, Jim had ulterior motives.

APTER: Will another family member come out of the woodwork and keep this family feud going?

HART: I don't think so. I thought SummerSlam would be the final chapter, but it looks like Davey is being drawn into this. Neidhart always says Davey is not family, but he's every bit as much family as Jim is.

APTER: Let's move on and discuss Bob Backlund. Why do you think he snapped?

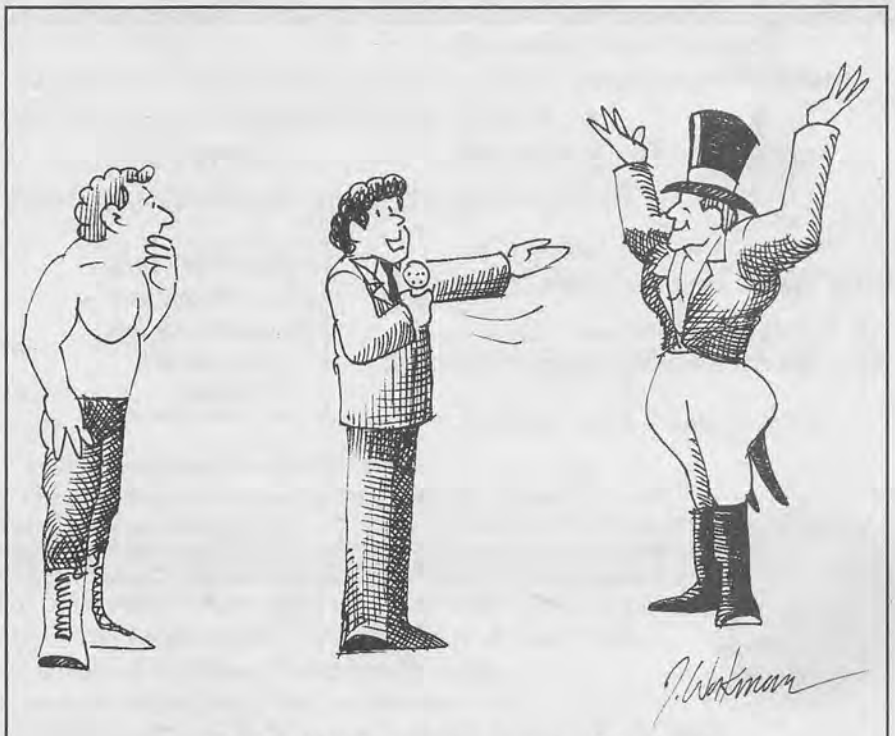
HART: I feel sorry for him. You can't make people cheer for someone. He was one of the nicest guys who ever got into pro wrestling, if not *the* nicest. He never cursed ... such a good man. He lost his support from the fans, they almost booed him out of the building every night. I don't know why. That really affected him.

APTER: What happens if he gets you in his chicken wing?

HART: I have not worked out a countermove for this. This is when the excellence of execution comes in, to sit down with my dad and go back into the dungeon and work on a counter. There might not be a way out, so you have to try not to get into it.

APTER: What about King Kong Bundy?

HART: I see him as a very serious threat. Like Yokozuna or Bam Bam Bigelow, those heavy guys are really difficult to wrestle. You go in with the idea that you're going to take a pretty good beating. You get pounded and pummeled for as long as you can take it. Bundy has great endurance. He's a machine. He's a real danger to my title. □



"And in this corner, a true master of the ring!"

(Continued from page 5)

have to take on the animal-rights activists. Now *that* will be a match worth watching!

RON SHERRY
Sharpsville, PA

☎ NOT WORTH 10 CENTS

I am one WWF fan who misses Ted DiBiase as a wrestler. He was sneaky, but talented and smart. As a manager, the "Million-Dollar Man" isn't worth a dime. The pseudo-Undertaker is an embarrassment, Bam Bam Bigelow still isn't reaching his potential, and Tatanka just isn't cut out to be a rulebreaker.

I hope Ted's neck heals to the point where he can wrestle again. If not, perhaps he should retreat to the broadcast table, where he could balance Vince McMahon's ranting and raving.

SONNY POOLE
Dog Creek, British Columbia

Public Enemy had no right to spraypaint horses belonging to Terry and Dory Funk, says "*PWI* Hotline" caller Ron Sherry. He'd like to see animal rights activists get their hands on Johnny Grunge and Rocco Rock.

ACT ROYALLY, "KING"

Why is Jerry Lawler in the WWF? Obviously not to wrestle! He seems more concerned with arguing with fans than he does with actually winning a match.

On a recent taping of *WWF Monday Night Raw*, I was appalled to see Lawler holding on to the ropes, running scared around the ring, and even stooping to use foreign objects. By the way he wrestled Duke "The Dumpster" Droese, you might think he won all his USWA titles by tiring out his opponents. I know Lawler is at least an average wrestler, but he seems unwilling to show any wrestling skill in the WWF.

If Lawler is not going to wrestle seriously in the WWF, he should remain at the broadcast booth instead of getting involved in a silly

(Continued on page 52)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN WRESTLING PRESENTS

NIGHT OF THE LEGENDS

In this new video release featuring the Night of the Legends, A Celebration of the History of Wrestling in East Tennessee, August 5, 1994 in the sold out Civic Coliseum in Knoxville, TN. In this Collector's Video see:

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(Continued from page 50)

feud with Doink the Clown that will only make him and the USWA look bad.

CHAD WARD
Sanger, CA

HAIR HAIR, JAKE

Jake Roberts was actually bald for a while ("Jake Roberts—Bald And Bitter," November 1994)? Priceless! Absolutely priceless! I'm still laughing my head off! It couldn't have happened to a bigger jerk—except maybe Rick Rude! If he's embarrassed, *good.* That's what he deserves after all the trouble he's caused over the years!

It'll be a long time before we see that stringy mop of hair he used to have. For now, everyone can just enjoy a good laugh.

RITA M. BUDA
Chicago

If Jerry Lawler is going to use foreign objects and other shortcuts against opponents like Duke "The Dumpster" Droese, he should stick to broadcasting, writes Chad Ward.

WWF-FLAVORED WCW?

Hulk Hogan winning the WCW World title is a bad thing. It may temporarily boost the federation, but in the long run it will bring the promotion down. Hacksaw Duggan is in, and so is Brutus Beefcake. Honky Tonk Man has arrived with guitar in hand, and the abysmal Bushwhackers could be next.

Just when WCW was beginning to present a respectable product (Spring Stampede, Slamboree), in comes the "Hulkster" and turns it into the WWF of the 1980s, which everybody has less-than-fond memories of.

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Jake Roberts deserved the humiliation of having his head shaved, says reader Rita M. Buda. She says she still laughs when she thinks about the incident.

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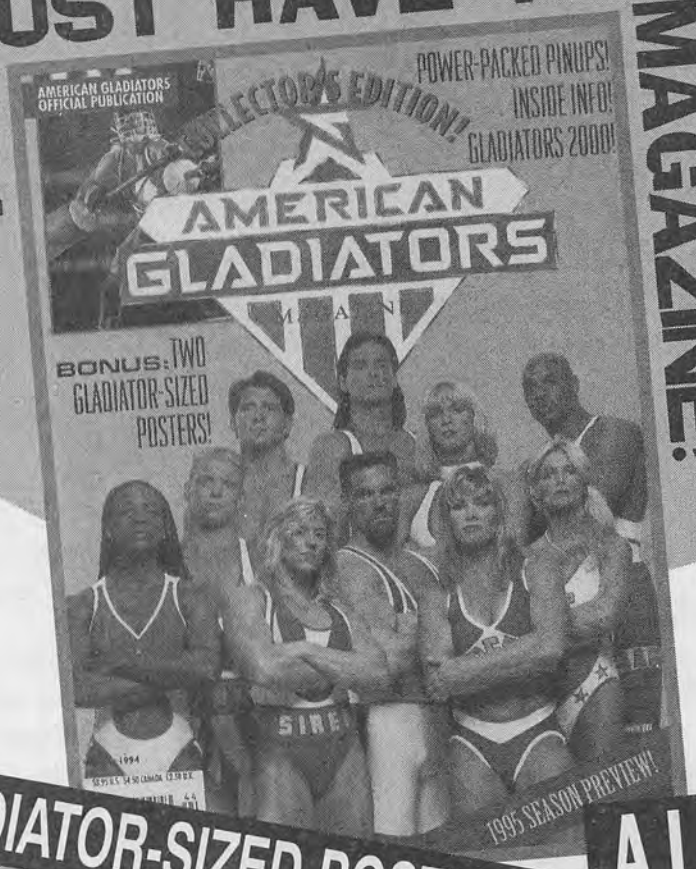

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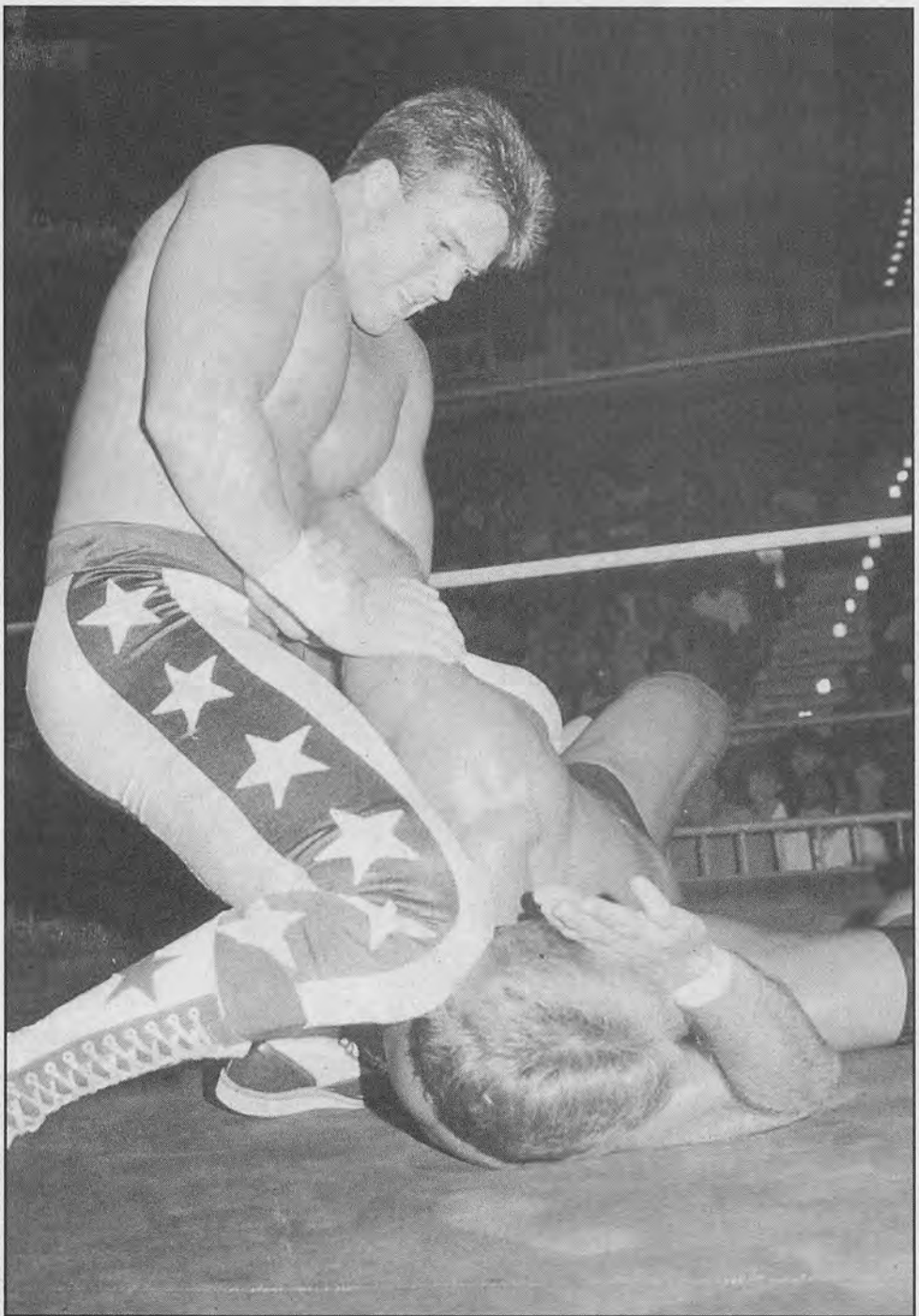


Marcus Alexander Bagwell became a two-time WCW World tag team champion when he and The Patriot finally beat Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma for the belts in Atlanta.

And what's with this Hogan-**Dave Sullivan** pairing? Dave professes to be the "ultimate Hulkamaniac." Hogan gave him a pair of his boots, which Dave calls his "magic slippers," and the two have even formed an occasional tag team.

That didn't please Dave's brother, **Kevin**, who can't stand Hogan. Maybe someday Kevin Sullivan and Owen Hart could challenge Dave Sullivan and Bret Hart.

I must confess that I'm still taken aback when I see **Hacksaw Duggan** with the U.S. belt strapped around his waist. He took advantage of some strange circumstances at Fall Brawl and pinned **Steve Austin** in 27 seconds.

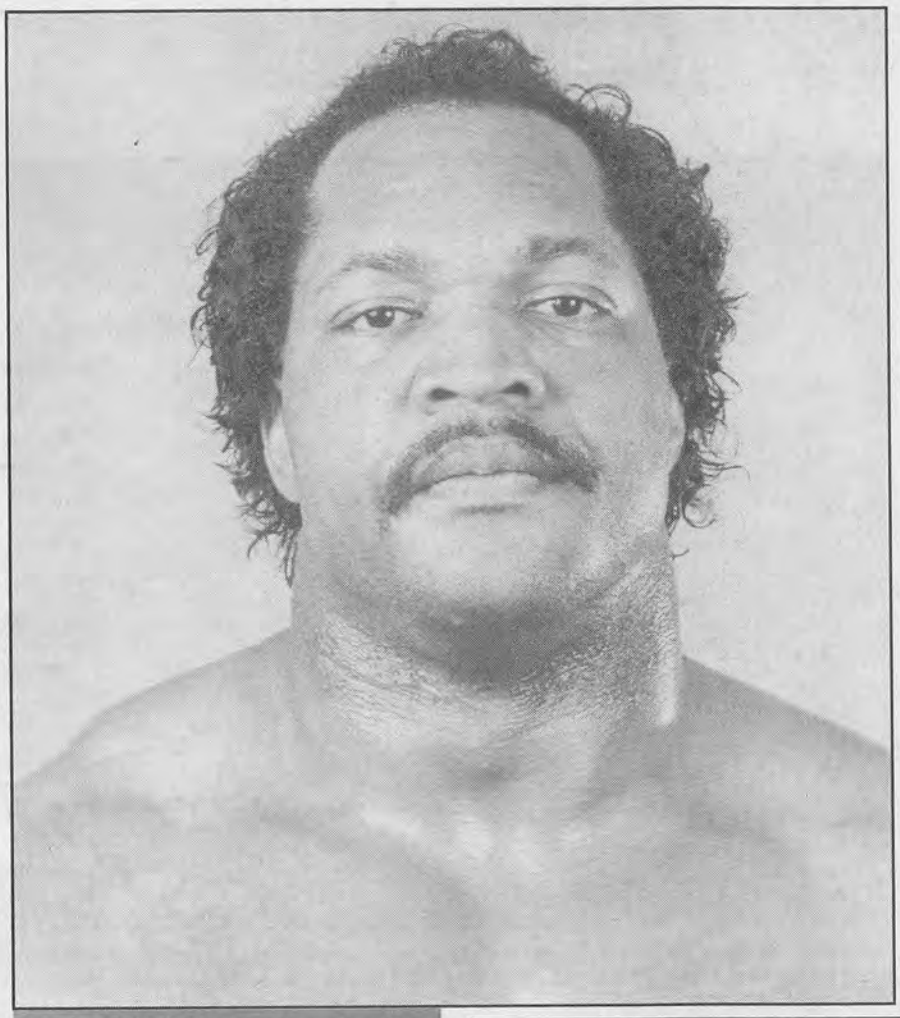
Don't feel sorry for Austin. He had several rematches after that pay-per-view, but as of this writing hasn't been able to regain the belt.

My congratulations to **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** and **The Patriot**. They persevered and finally won the WCW World tag team title from **Paul Orndorff** and **Paul Roma**. It's Bagwell's second World tag title; he teamed with **2 Cold Scorpio** to win the belts last October, but their reign lasted a mere 20 days.

Even though they are now fellow fan favorites, it's possible that **The Nasty Boys** could challenge Bagwell and Patriot. For now, they're more concerned with humiliating **Col. Robert Parker** and his **Stud Stable**.

One WCW alumnus is off to a good start in Smoky Mountain Wrestling. **Cactus Jack** says he is on a humanitarian mission to save SMW's **Boo Bradley**, the latest addition to **Tammy Fytch's** stable. He doesn't like the way Fytch and **Chris Candido** humiliate Bradley by bringing him to the ring on a leash.

The hottest SMW feud has



Former WCW World champion Ron Simmons returned to the mat sport after a brief hiatus. He is now competing in ECW as a fan favorite and is pursuing Shane Douglas and the heavyweight title.

heavyweight champion **"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony** battling **Bruiser Bedlam** in a series of whipping matches. When Anthony loses, he must endure 10 lashes with a leather belt. When Bedlam loses, both he and his manager, **Jim Cornette**, get five.

Bryant Anderson is now competing in Smoky, with his famous father, **Ole**, at his side. Bryant is feuding with **Tracey Smothers**. He claims Smothers pushed him around a few years ago when he came to visit his college wrestling team in Tennessee. Anderson is holding his own against Smothers.

If USWA champ **Sid Vicious** thinks he can rest easy now that he has beaten **Jerry Lawler** numerous times, he's dead wrong! The Undertaker traveled to Memphis for a brief tour of the federation and nearly beat big Sid for the title. Lucky for Vicious that **Spellbinder** interfered and got him disqualified. Remember that Sid and Undertaker feuded several years ago in the WWF.

A scary incident in ECW: **The Sandman** suffered a fractured eye socket during an "I Quit" match against **Tommy Dreamer** in Philadelphia. At one point in the match, Sandman had a cigarette that he was smoking knocked into his eye.

It's good to see **Ron Simmons** back wrestling again. The former WCW World champ is wrestling as a fan favorite in ECW and is after **Shane Douglas'** title.

That's all for now. See you at ringside! □

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from the desk of...

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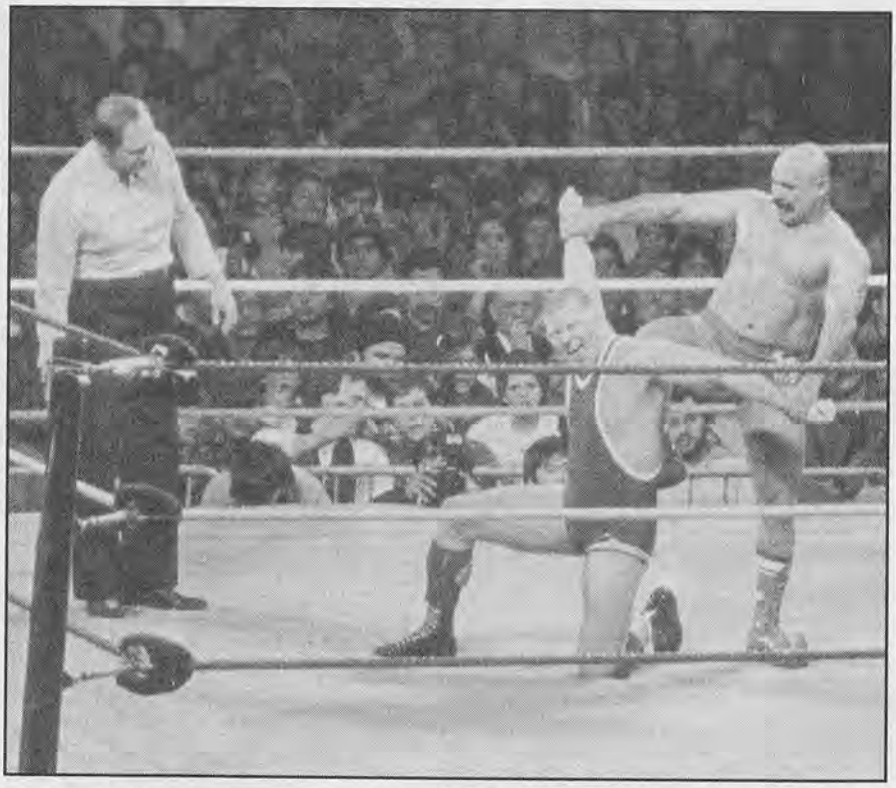


The Iron Sheik was well-aware of the extent of Backlund's back injury and directed his attack in that area. In retrospect, Backlund should have cancelled the match.

the black decade that followed his title loss.

I don't approve of what Backlund has become, but if he chooses to destroy his image, it is his to destroy. But when he tries to fight off his mid-life crisis by blaming his ill-fated career on Skaaland, a man whose greatest crime against humanity is blowing cigar smoke into the atmosphere, I have to set the record straight.

Let's go back to December of 1983. But not the night of December 26. A few days earlier. Part of the Sheik's workout regimen included swinging a pair of 75-pound clubs around his body and over his head. To the average observer, this did not appear too difficult a feat, but it was one of those things like holding an egg in a certain position and trying to break the shell. The Sheik could do it, but few others could.

Backlund accepted a challenge issued by Sheik and his manager, Fred Blassie, to try to swing the clubs. Backlund, while not big by wrestling standards, is the most superbly conditioned athlete I have ever met. It was by no means easy for him, but he was able to perform the exercise. The Sheik, stunned and embarrassed by Backlund's success, attacked his rival as he swung the clubs, injuring his neck, shoulder, and left arm.

Doctors tried to convince Backlund that he should spend a week or two in traction at the hospital, but the proud champion was determined to go on with his match against the Sheik. In a private discussion in the moments before the match, Skaaland told Backlund flat out: "If you get to a point where your health is in jeopardy, I'm stopping the match."

Backlund agreed.

Well, that's precisely what happened. The Sheik directed his attack on Backlund's ailing back from the opening bell and eventually locked him in a camel clutch. The pain Backlund experienced was so intense that his eyes actually rolled up in his head. Referee Dick Kroll asked Backlund if he wanted to give up, but no answer came. Sensing the hopelessness of the situation, Skaaland did the only thing possible: He threw in the towel, signalling surrender.

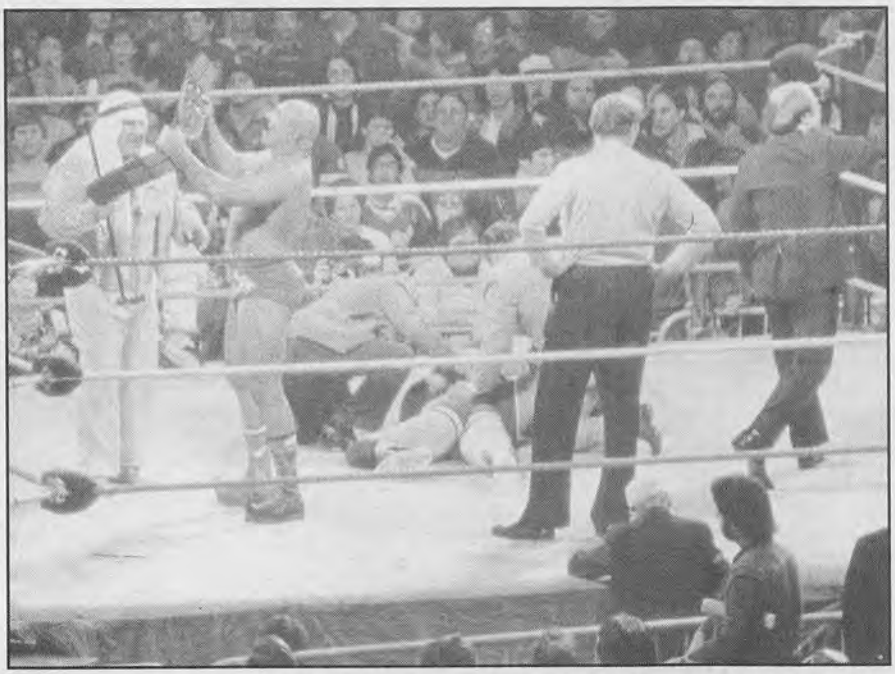
Did Skaaland do the right thing? Could Backlund have continued?

If you ask Backlund today, the answers will be no and yes. Backlund will tell you that he has come from further back against better opponents and he deserved the chance to do so against the Sheik. He'll tell you that he has never recovered mentally from being the only world champion in history to have lost the title by having his corner throw in the towel. But he won't tell you that he was practically rendered unconscious from the pain. That he needed assistance to get out of the ring. That the examining physician for the New York State Athletic Commission told Backlund that his manager had saved him from permanent injury.

He also won't tell you that he had a rematch clause in his contract, guaranteeing him a shot against The Iron Sheik on January 23. It was Backlund, not Skaaland, who made the decision to hand that rematch opportunity to Hulk Hogan instead.

It's funny how a man who can reel off the names of every President and their Vice Presidents can't remember a pivotal moment in his own life. He has caused an innocent man tremendous harm with his wild accusations, and taken it a dangerous step further, locking the 70-year-old man in a chicken wing and refusing to release it.

Even more pathetic than that sight is the notion that Backlund is trying to make Skaaland the scapegoat for all that has gone wrong in his career for the past decade. Backlund likes to think of himself as a man's man, but a real man takes responsibility for his own actions—and his own failures. □



Sheik and his manager, Fred Blassie, celebrate their championship victory as Backlund receives attention from Skaaland and the ringside physician.

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win, lose, or draw

(Continued from page 12)

Scorpio and Bagwell held the WCW tag team belts for 20 days in 1993 before Scorpio left the federation for the independent circuit. He still considers Bagwell a friend, though he says he wouldn't hold back if they clashed in WCW.

much," Scorpio continued. "I know Marcus pretty well. I know how he thinks in the ring. We've adopted a lot of the same methods. And if it has to get nasty, I'm prepared to do that. I know that Marcus is as well."

Before any confrontation takes place, Scorpio must first find a partner. Listening to Scorpio, that may be the most difficult challenge of all.

"It has to be somebody who could match me move for move, who is familiar with my style," he said. "Some people say each partner should bring something different to a tag team. For instance, they say one guy should be fast and one should be strong, sort of offset each other's weaknesses.

"I'm looking for someone who's just as comfortable going to the air as I am, someone who will put his body on the line and take risks," Scorpio explained. "I was in Japan this summer, where they have a lot of guys I'd like to team with, but I don't think any of them would want to come over for more than a few weeks. I need somebody who'll stick it out for a while."

Somebody like ... Bagwell?

"That's right," Scorpio said with a laugh. "I won't deny it. Look, Marcus and I were an excellent team. With a little luck, it could have gone a lot further. But I'm not looking back. I'm serious when I say I want that WCW tag team title. I'll go through whoever it takes to get it."

Those are strong words, strong enough for Bagwell to take them seriously. Even so, the new champion said he'd be surprised if his old partner would pursue the belts.

"I was sure Scorpio made a total commitment to singles wrestling," said the new champion. "That's why I'm kind of surprised by this. But I welcome the challenge, sure. Scorpio is one of the best. You don't often get the chance to test yourself against someone of his caliber. I know what he can do. I know that Patriot and I would be hard-pressed to beat Scorpio and whoever his partner might be."

Scorpio said he has no timetable for finding a partner, but admits that if he doesn't find one soon, he may lose interest in pursuing the title.

"If it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen," he said. "There are a lot of other things I can do. There are plenty of titles out there to be won."

Is Scorpio speaking honestly, or making a statement to lull Bagwell into a false sense of security?

"He says it's nothing personal, that he just wants to be tag team champion again," says one WCW wrestler who's trained with both men. "But they were always trying to outdo each other, even when they were champions. I think Scorpio wants to prove to Marcus that Marcus wasn't the key member of their team."

"What Scorpio wants to do," says a second grappler who also teamed with both Scorpio and Bagwell, "is prove to everybody that he is every bit the champion Bagwell is. That seems ridiculous, because Scorpio obviously is a great wrestler. But that's what he wants to do. That's why he's interested in tag teams again all of a sudden. Bagwell's success motivated him quickly."

What does Scorpio have to say about this? Very little.

"Those guys you talked to, I know who they are," he said. "We talk for a few minutes, and they think they have me figured out. What motivates me is the desire to be the best. Jealousy has nothing to do with it."

There's little reason not to believe Scorpio. He fights hard and clean and has proven himself to be trustworthy. Still, something about this doesn't seem right. For some reason, he wants what Bagwell has. Maybe the two partners didn't have a great relationship after all.

Maybe this is a situation to watch. □

Scorpio and Bagwell racked up victory after victory together in WCW. In the process, Scorpio learned a lot about Bagwell's strengths and weaknesses. He could get a chance to use that knowledge against him in the near future.

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(Continued from page 16)

been the most resilient wrestler of all-time. His defeat of Bruno Sammartino in 1971, a victory that ended Bruno's nearly eight-year WWF World title reign, was a sports moment equivalent in drama to Bobby Thompson's home run or Franco Harris' miraculous reception. Koloff was consistent, which nowadays is the best compliment you can pay an athlete.

Dear Eddie,

I was happy to see Paul Orndorff finally win the WCW World tag team title, even if he and Paul Roma didn't hold the belts for long. Now maybe you'll shut up about how great he's been over the years. It took Paul Roma to carry the bum, and that's pretty pathetic. Stan Hansen, Orndorff—find yourself some new heroes. Your old ones are beginning to stink like dead men.

PENNY KINMAR
Tulsa, OK

Dear Penny,

It's a shame the new breed of wrestling fan can't recognize quality (I'm basing your age on the number of spelling mistakes your letter contained; you must be around seven or eight). Orndorff is as good as it gets, and when he finally retires, you won't see his kind of wrestler again. Power, strength, and, most important, commitment to quality—those have always been Paul's strong suits. It sounds like sour grapes to say he got lousy calls from referees—the great ones do find a way to win—but if Hogan hadn't paid off the officials when he was feuding with "Mr. Wonderful" in the WWF, Orndorff's career would have been very different.

Maybe I'm just deluded from watching to many Hulk Hogan movies, but the WWF probably *could* use someone like Sting. That is, if mascara boy spent more time in the gym and made himself look like more of a freak than he already is!

Dear Eddie,

What's wrong with the WWF?

JENNY SUSMAN
San Diego, CA

Dear Jenny,

Nothing that some *Thunder In Paradise* couldn't cure. I say hire Sting, shave his head, have him pump iron in the gym for 20 hours a day, and—poof!—instant "Hulkamania."

Dear Eddie,

Where does Lex Luger fit into the future of professional wrestling?

AL MATHIAS
Athens, Greece

Dear Al,

Lex Luger is an example of what happens to potential if all you do is growl and flex. I hope he doesn't fit in at all. Tatanka did the whole world a favor by turning against one of the game's all-time losers. Knowing Lex, he'll put all his energy into a feud with Tatanka. Like all of Luger's feuds, it will do zilch for his career. But it will keep Luger out of the WWF World title picture, allowing deserving contenders to get title shots.

Dear Eddie,

In 10 years, what will Ric Flair be doing?

SHANNON WILKS
Key West, FL

Dear Sharon,

Spearheading the formation of the Senior's Wrestling Tour, which he and Bob Backlund will dominate. Don't laugh. □

BACK ISSUES OF

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August 1983/CENTERFOLD: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper,** Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.
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June 1984/CENTERFOLD: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase,** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.
July 1984/CENTERFOLD: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant,** JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.
September 1985/CENTERFOLD: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.,** Von Erich, Hogan, AWA Scouting Reports.
February 1986/CENTERFOLD: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich,** Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.
October 1986/CENTERFOLD: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff,** Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Luger, Simpson.
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January 1988/CENTERFOLD: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase,** Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.
May 1988/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **Andre,** Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.
August 1988/CENTERFOLD: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan,** Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.
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January 1990/CENTERFOLD: Sid Vicious. **Ultimate,** Cornette, Ross, Kerry.
February 1990/CENTERFOLD: Bret Hart. **Lex Luger,** Hogan, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams, Woman.
April 1990/CENTERFOLD: Dusty Rhodes. **Ric Flair,** Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.
June 1990/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **Hogan vs. Warrior,** R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.
July 1990/CENTERFOLD: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger,** Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referees.
September 1990/CENTERFOLD: Rick & Scott Steiner. **Hogan,** Sting, Horsemen, Hennig.
October 1990/CENTERFOLD: Brutus Beefcake. **Sting,** Tugboat, Ultimate, Long, Blanchard-Orndorff.
November 1990/CENTERFOLD: Legion Of Doom. **Sting beats Flair,** Rude-Warrior.
April 1991/CENTERFOLD: Tom Zenk. **Sgt. Slaughter,** Hogan & Warrior, Magnum T.A.
May 1991/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **Hogan,** Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.
July 1991/CENTERFOLD: Brian Pillman. **Hogan,** Luger, Demolition, Embry, Horsemen-Vicious.
October 1991/CENTERFOLD: Lex Luger. **Justice,** Hogan-Slaughter, Windham, Williams.
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July 1992/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Best of the Best,** Flair, U.S.-Japan, Savage.
September 1992/CENTERFOLD: Nikita Koloff. **Sting-Savage,** Justice, Backlund, Steiners, Michaels.
November 1992/CENTERFOLD: The Ultimate Warrior. **British Bulldog,** Undertaker, Steiners, Honky Tonk Man interview
December 1992/CENTERFOLD: Big Van Vader. **PWI 500,** Bossman-Nailz, Watts & WCW rules, Justice interview.
January 1993/CENTERFOLD: Jeff Jarrett. **Flair/Summerslam,** Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.
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May 1993/CENTERFOLD: Undertaker. **WrestleMania IX Preview,** Cactus Jack, Madusa-Sherri.
June 1993/CENTERFOLD: Razor Ramon. **Flair,** Race-Vader, Lawler-Hennig, Kamala, WWF's egoists.
July 1993/CENTERFOLD: Davey Boy Smith. **Hulk Hogan,** Vader, Yokozuna, Hart Slamboree, Flair-Rude.
September 1993/CENTERFOLD: Paul Orndorff. **Sting & Hogan,** Luger, Sherri-Shango, Blonds.
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November 1993/CENTERFOLD: The Steiners. **WCW Midyear Report,** Doink, Funk-Gilbert, Race, Yokozuna.
December 1993/CENTERFOLD: Bret Hart. **PWI 500,** Luger, Davey Boy Smith, Cactus Jack.
January 1994/CENTERFOLD: Jerry Lawler. **Doink,** Nasty Boys, Steiners, Cornette, Vicious.
February 1994/CENTERFOLD: Sid Vicious. **WWF or WCW-Who's Better?,** Race-Rhodes, Hogan-Muta, Hart.
April 1994/CENTERFOLD: Nasty Boys. **Flair-Hogan-Hart,** Rude, Kevin Von, Michaels, steroids.
May 1994/CENTERFOLD: Tatanka. **Yokozuna-Luger,** Flair-Vader, Heenan, WrestleMania retrospective.
July 1994/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. **Razor Ramon,** Flair-Regal, Cactus, Lawler, Yokozuna workout.
August 1994/CENTERFOLD: Doink & Dink. **Bret Hart/WrestleMania X,** Steiners, Albano, steroid trial.
October 1994/CENTERFOLD: Owen Hart. **All-Star Challenge,** Sting, Savage, Hennig, Fytch, WWF in Japan.
November 1994/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Hogan In WCW,** Cactus, Yokozuna, Lawler, Michaels, Jake.

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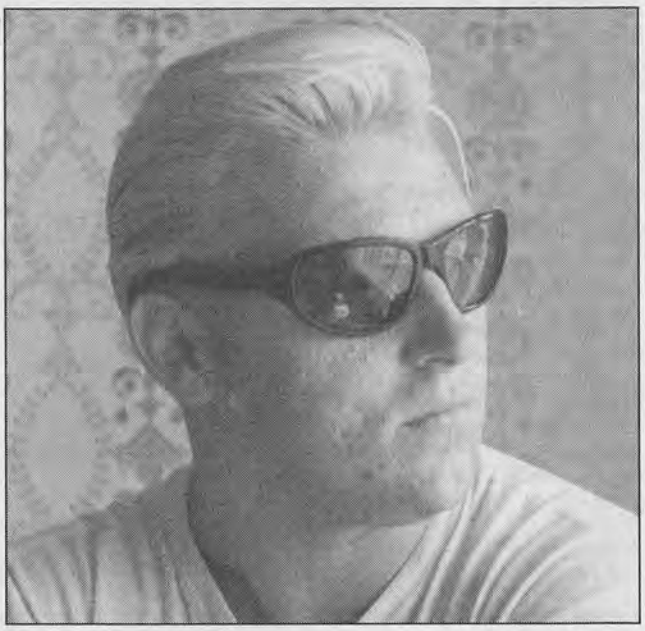
SO YA WANNA BE A ROCK 'N' ROLL STAR?!

Think it's easy being a member of The Rock 'n' Roll Express? Over the years, Rick Morton and Robert Gibson have spent hour upon hour in the gym working on new moves. But when you are as popular with female fans as the Rock 'n' Rolls are, looks are important, too. Morton only allows the best hair stylists to cut his long blond locks. Gibson is usually right by his tag team partner's side to make sure the stylist doesn't take too much off the top.



IF ONLY THEY HAD CLEARASIL BACK THEN ...

Who's that man with the cool sunglasses and the acne-ridden face? It's none other than WCW's resident "Weasel," er, "Brain," Bobby Heenan. Back in 1968, Heenan was definitely not the suave, sophisticated, debonair gentleman he (thinks he) is today. Few dared to kid him about his skin problem, because back then, Heenan was considered a pretty tough guy.

NO, THOSE *AREN'T* FOREIGN OBJECTS

Young wrestling fans know Gorilla Monsoon best as one of the WWF's top broadcasters. But back in 1967, he was one of the toughest, most powerful wrestlers anywhere. When he got the rare opportunity to relax at his home in New Jersey, he loved to play horseshoes in the backyard. "I'm as tough to beat in horseshoes as I am in the ring," he said back then. Who's going to argue with a Gorilla?

CUT ... THAT'S A WRAP!

Hulk Hogan was by no means the first wrestler to star in a major motion picture. Ten-time AWA World titleholder Verne Gagne (right) played an aging wrestling champion in the 1974 feature film *The Wrestler*. Here, Gagne and Ed Asner, who played a promoter, talk during a break in the filming.

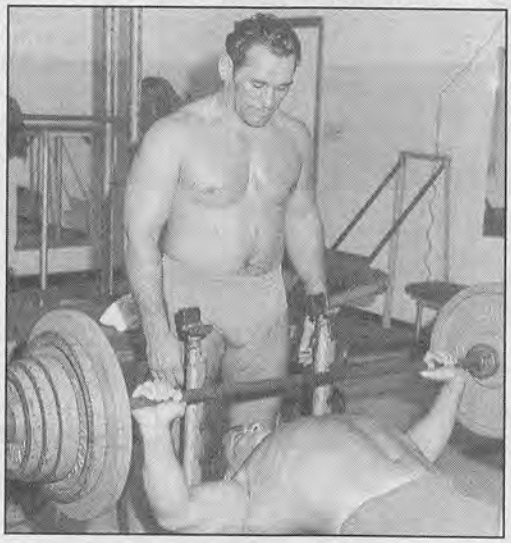
*Every other month, **Pro Wrestling Illustrated** will pore through its massive photo collection to bring you some of the most unique photographs the mat world has ever seen!*

GOT A PROBLEM? COME ON DOWN TO THE STATION AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT!

Bulldog Brower (left) was one of the most controversial wrestlers ever to compete in Canada. So controversial, in fact, that Toronto talk-show host Bill Brady invited him to take phone calls one morning on CKEY's *Brady Line.* For weeks, CKEY listeners had been calling Brady with pro and con comments concerning Brower's behavior in the ring. Brower spent a half-hour grappling with listeners over the airwaves. The conversation was, to say the least, lively.

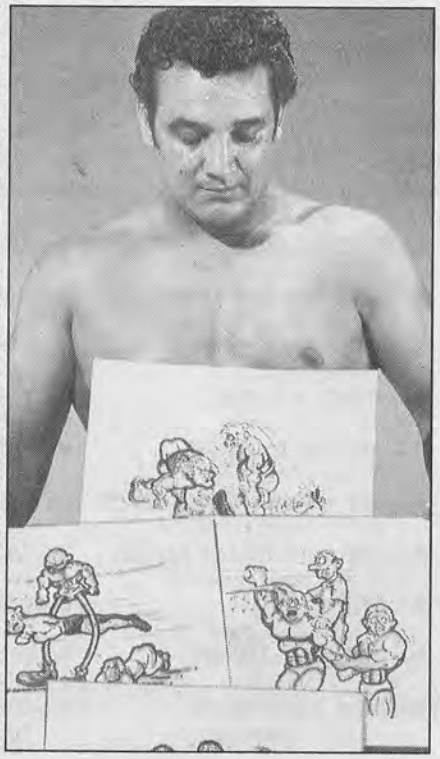
HEY, ABE, CAN YOU HELP ME WITH THIS?

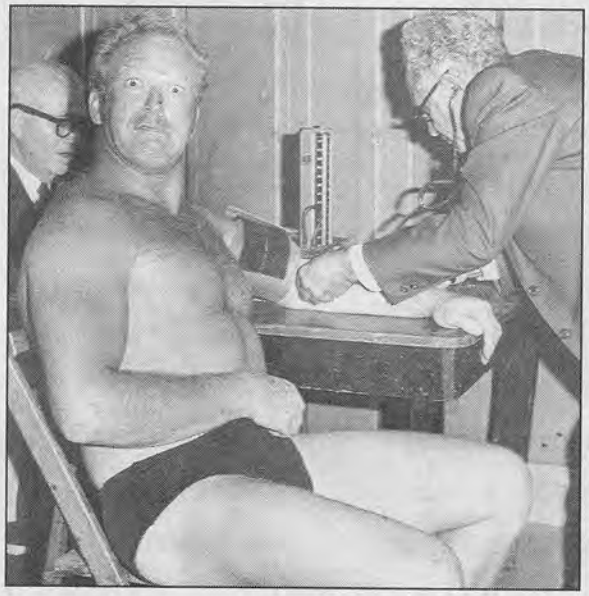
If you expect to maintain a great physique, you have to put in your time at the gym. That's what Tony Marino always said. In this picture, taken in 1964 in Tampa, Florida, Tony has his good friend and occasional tag team partner Abe Jacobs spotting for him while he pumps iron. "I just had Abe there in case I tried to lift more than I could handle," he said, "but of course that never happened."



AN ARTIST BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE RING

Former wrestler Tito Carreon, currently a manager in Oregon, is a man of many talents. When he wasn't in the ring, you could often find him sitting at a desk sketching. "It's a great way to relax and express my creativity," he says. Thank goodness his matches never got quite as violent as the action depicted in his artwork.





WHADDYA MEAN I GOT HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?!

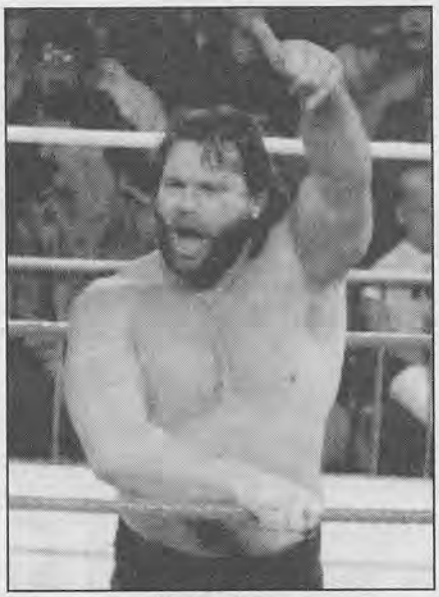
Even back in 1969, wrestlers had to pass certain medical tests before they were allowed to step into the ring. In this photo, a doctor had the unenviable task of informing Billy "Red" Lyons that his blood pressure was just a tad high. Lyons, who could get quite animated in the ring, didn't take the news all that well.

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED®

PWI's Top 10

TOP 10

1. **HULK HOGAN**
   275, Venice Beach, CA
   (1) WCW World champion
2. **BRET HART**
   234, Calgary, Alberta
   (2) WWF World champion
3. **RAZOR RAMON**
   287, Miami, FL
   (3) WWF Intercontinental champion
4. **THE UNDERTAKER**
   328, parts unknown
   (6) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
5. **HACKSAW DUGGAN**
   280, Glens Falls, NY
   (-) U.S. heavyweight champion
6. **BIG VAN VADER**
   450, Denver, CO
   (7) No. 3 contender: WCW World title
7. **BOB BACKLUND**
   234, Princeton, MN
   (-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
8. **JIM NEIDHART**
   275, Tampa, FL
   (-) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
9. **SID VICIOUS**
   318, West Memphis, AR
   (10) USWA heavyweight champion
10. **TONY ANTHONY**
    235, Bucksnort, TN
    (-) Smoky Mountain champion



Hacksaw Duggan

TAG TEAMS

1. **PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA**
   Combined weight: 488 pounds
   (5) WCW World tag team champions
2. **MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT**
   Combined weight: 491 pounds
   (2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
3. **THE NASTY BOYS**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   (6) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
4. **THE HEADSHRINKERS**
   Combined weight: 520 pounds
   (3) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
5. **THE GANGSTAS**
   Combined weight: 456 pounds
   (10) Smoky Mountain tag team champions
6. **THE BUSHWHACKERS**
   Combined weight: 499 pounds
   (9) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
7. **PG-13**
   Combined weight: 471 pounds
   (7) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title
8. **PUBLIC ENEMY**
   Combined weight: 583 pounds
   (8) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title
9. **THE SMOKIN' GUNNS**
   Combined weight: 465 pounds
   (-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
10. **THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
    Combined weight: 453 pounds
    (4) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title

WCW

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

1. **HACKSAW DUGGAN** *(1) 280, Glens Falls, NY*
2. **JOHNNY B. BADD** *(2) 235, Macon, GA*
3. **BIG VAN VADER** *(5) 450, Denver, CO*
4. **STEVE AUSTIN** *(10) 241, Dallas, TX*
5. **DUSTIN RHODES** *(9) 254, Austin, TX*
6. **THE HONKY TONK MAN** *(-) 278, Memphis, TN*
7. **THE GUARDIAN ANGEL** *(3) 310, Cobb County, GA*
8. **STING** *(4) 260, Venice Beach, CA*
9. **DAVE SULLIVAN** *(-) 283, Boston, MA*
10. **ARN ANDERSON** *(7) 249, Minneapolis, MN*

WWF

World Champion:
BRET HART
(C) 234, Calgary, Alberta

1. **RAZOR RAMON** *(1) 287, Miami, FL*
2. **JIM NEIDHART** *(2) 275, Tampa, FL*
3. **BOB BACKLUND** *(-) 234, Princeton, MN*
4. **THE UNDERTAKER** *(4) 328, parts unknown*
5. **JEFF JARRETT** *(8) 230, Nashville, TN*
6. **LEX LUGER** *(6) 265, Chicago, IL*
7. **TATANKA** *(-) 250, Pembroke, NC*
8. **KING KONG BUNDY** *(-) 446, Atlantic City, NJ*
9. **IRWIN R. SCHYSTER** *(7) 248, Syracuse, NY*
10. **OWEN HART** *(3) 227, Calgary, Alberta*

USWA

USWA Champion:
SID VICIOUS
(C) 318, West Memphis, AR

1. **TOMMY RICH** *(3) 248, Hendersonville, TN*
2. **THE UNDERTAKER** *(-) 328, parts unknown*
3. **JERRY LAWLER** *(2) 234, Memphis, TN*
4. **BUDDY LANDELL** *(7) 236, Los Angeles, CA*
5. **SPELLBINDER** *(5) 246, parts unknown*
6. **JEFF GAYLORD** *(10) 280, St. Louis, MO*
7. **MOONDOG REX** *(-) 289, parts unknown*
8. **SCOTT BOWDEN** *(9) 215, Memphis, TN*
9. **REGGIE B. FINE** *(-) 215, Memphis, TN*
10. **MOONDOG SPOT** *(-) 263, parts unknown*

ECW

ECW Champion:
SHANE DOUGLAS
(C) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

1. **SABU** *(1) 220, Bombay*
2. **911** *(2) 310, parts unknown*
3. **MR. HUGHES** *(3) 308, Kansas City, KS*
4. **THE SANDMAN** *(4) 244, Philadelphia, PA*
5. **RON SIMMONS** *(5) 260, Perry, GA*
6. **TOMMY DREAMER** *(6) 245, Yonkers, NY*
7. **TASMANIAC** *(7) 221, Tasmania*
8. **DEAN MALENKO** *(8) 216, Tampa, FL*
9. **DORY FUNK JR.** *(9) 250, Amarillo, TX*
10. **IAN ROTTEN** *(10) 281, Philadelphia, PA*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended October 28, 1994

MOST POPULAR

1 **HULK HOGAN**
275, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

2 **BRET HART**
234, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

3 **STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

4 **THE UNDERTAKER**
328, parts unknown
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

5 **RAZOR RAMON**
287, Miami, FL
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

6 **DAVEY BOY SMITH**
245, Leeds, England
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

7 **HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular

8 **LEX LUGER**
265, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

9 **JOHNNY B. BADD**
235, Macon, GA
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

10 **DUSTIN RHODES**
254, Austin, TX
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1 **BOB BACKLUND**
234, Princeton, MN
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

2 **BIG VAN VADER**
450, Denver, CO
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

3 **TATANKA**
250, Pembroke, NC
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

4 **JIM NEIDHART**
275, Tampa, FL
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

5 **JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

6 **RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated

7 **SHAWN MICHAELS**
234, San Antonio, TX
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

8 **OWEN HART**
227, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

9 **DIESEL**
356, Las Vegas, NV
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

10 **SHANE DOUGLAS**
223, Pittsburgh, PA
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—BRET HART.....93 points
2—RIC FLAIR.....72 points
3—RAZOR RAMON.....54 points
4—STING.....52 points
5—HULK HOGAN.....47 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE NASTY BOYS.....73 points
2—THE HEADSHRINKERS.....66 points
3—PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA.....46 points
4—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT.....36 points
5—THE QUEBECERS.....32 points

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion:
TONY ANTHONY
(C) 235, Bucksnort, TN

1—BRUISER BEDLAM
(1) 235, Newark, NJ
2—TRACEY SMOTHERS
(-) 227, Atlanta, GA
3—BOO BRADLEY
(4) 310, parts unknown
4—LANCE STORM
(6) 231, Memphis, TN
5—CACTUS JACK
(-) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
6—BRYANT ANDERSON
(-) 240, Atlanta, GA
7—RICK MORTON
(5) 228, Memphis, TN
8—STEVE SKYFIRE
(-) 229, Knoxville, TN
9—THE INFERNO
(10) 235, parts unknown
10—ROBERT GIBSON
(8) 225, Pensacola, FL

INTERNATIONAL

Triple Crown Champion:
TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(C) 245, Tizhigi, Japan

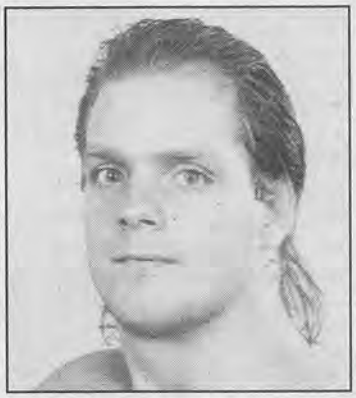
1—STEVE WILLIAMS
(-) 265, Norman, OK
2—SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(-) 287, Gisu, Japan
3—MITSUHARU MISAWA
(-) 247, Saitama, Japan
4—BIG VAN VADER
(-) 450, Denver, CO
5—NOBUHIKO TAKADA
(-) 231, Yokohama, Japan
6—KONNAN
(-) 237, Mexico City, Mexico
7—KENTA KOBASHI
(-) 261, Tokyo, Japan
8—CHRIS BENOIT
(-) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
9—STAN HANSEN
(-) 322, Borger, TX
10—PERRO AGUAYO
(-) 215, Zacatecas, Mexico

AAA: AAA Champion—Konnan; **1**—El Hijo Del Santo; **2**—Octagon; **3**—The Love Machine; **4**—Eddy Guerrero; **5**—Rey Mysterio Jr.; **6**—La Parka; **7**—Perro Aguayo; **8**—Blue Panther; **9**—Psicosis; **10**—Cien Caras.
ACW: ACW Champion—Konnan; **1**—El Hijo Del Santo; **2**—Octagon; **3**—The Love Machine; **4**—Eddy Guerrero; **5**—Rey Mysterio Jr.; **6**—La Parka; **7**—Perro Aguayo; **8**—Blue Panther; **9**—Psicosis; **10**—Cien Caras.
IWCCW: IWCCW Champion—Tito Santana; **1**—Greg Valentine; **2**—Tony Atlas; **3**—Jimmy Snuka; **4**—Rick Martel; **5**—The Funny Clown; **6**—Metal Maniac; **7**—Jim Powers; **8**—Cousin Luke; **9**—Gino Caruso; **10**—Hacksaw Duggan.
MTW: MTW Champion—Machine Gun Kelly; **1**—Johnny Paradise; **2**—Chris Carter; **3**—Rock Stevens; **4**—Al Snow; **5**—Bobo Brazil Jr.; **6**—J.T. Lightning; **7**—Scott Summers; **8**—Denny Kass; **9**—Mohammed Saad; **10**—Bastion Booger.
PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; **1**—Tommy Ferrara; **2**—Punisher; **3**—Randy Gusto; **4**—J.B. Trask; **5**—Storm Trooper Aaron; **6**—Hawk; **7**—Charlie Norris; **8**—Jerry Lynn; **9**—Blake Beverly; **10**—Storm Trooper Willie.
PWF: PWF Champion—Russian Assassin II; **1**—Italian Stallion; **2**—George South; **3**—Flaming Youth; **4**—Star Ryder; **5**—Masked Maniac; **6**—Cruel Connection II; **7**—Troy Conyers; **8**—Brian Williams; **9**—Gladiator II; **10**—Terry Austin.
WWA: WWA Champion—Friendly Frank; **1**—Abudah Singh; **2**—Abdullah the Butcher; **3**—Rick Conners; **4**—Ramblin' Rich; **5**—Duane Gill; **6**—Striker; **7**—Ed Atlas; **8**—Ray Odyssey; **9**—Gus the Greek; **10**—Boy Gone Bad.
WWWA: WWWA Champion—Brutus Beefcake; **1**—Jack Hammer; **2**—Rick Martel; **3**—Harley Lewis; **4**—S.D. Jones; **5**—The Zombie; **6**—Glenn Osbourne; **7**—Mad Russian; **8**—Johnny Rebel; **9**—Super Nova; **10**—Mr. Haiti.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport.This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Our ratings go international. Shortly after the January 1995 issue of *PWI* went to press, we found out the Dallas-based Global Wrestling Federation had folded. The promotion had been evicted by the owners of the Sportatorium, where it held most of its cards, for failure to pay its bills.



Chris Benoit

Founded in 1991, Global's first heavyweight champion was **The Patriot**; **Chris Adams** held the heavyweight title at the time of the GWF's demise.

Not only was this bad news for wrestling fans in Texas, it also presented us with a problem in the ratings. We needed to fill the space occupied by the GWF. We decided to do what a lot of our readers suggested we do years ago: rate some of the wrestlers in Japan and other foreign countries.

We came up with a category we call the International ratings. Wrestlers competing *regularly* in promotions based outside the U.S. are eligible to be ranked in this category. Japanese stars such as **Mitsuharu Misawa**, **Nobuhiku Takada**, and **Shinya Hashimoto** make the list this month, but so do several Mexicans and a few wrestlers from North America. **Big Van Vader** has been wrestling in Japan's UWFI promotion a lot lately, even forming a tag team with **Earthquake**.

Canadian aerialist **Chris Benoit** and rugged Texan **Stan Hansen** are also in the ratings; both are considered major stars in the Far East. Though both WCW and the WWF frequently tour Europe and Japan, those tours will have no bearing on our International ratings because both promotions are based in the U.S.

The top spot in the International ratings will be always reserved for the Triple Crown champion, the man who holds the All-Japan International, All-Japan United National, and Pacific Wrestling Federation titles. **Steve Williams** had held those belts until he lost to **Toshiaki Kawada** in October.

Cruising with WCW. Exciting news for fans who long for the days when WCW had a light heavyweight division: The federation is establishing a cruiserweight division! A tournament to crown a champion is expected to be held no later than January 1995.

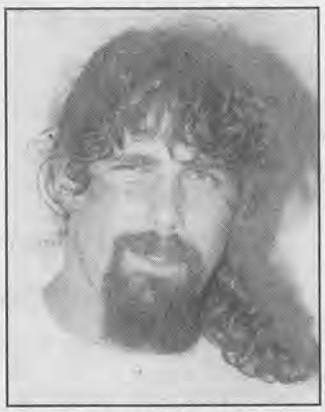
Brian Pillman will undoubtedly be one of the wrestlers entered in that tournament, and several Mexican wrestlers are expected to enter as well. "Flyin'" Brian was the first-ever WCW *light* heavyweight champion; he defeated **Rick Morton** in a tournament final in October 1991. **Jushin Liger** beat him for the belt less than two months later, but Pillman regained it in February 1992. Many who watched the Pillman-Liger battles called them aerial classics.

The last man to hold the belt before it was abandoned in September 1992 was **Brad Armstrong**.

When a cruiserweight champion is crowned, you can be sure he will always be ranked high in our WCW ratings.

Jack is back. When we last saw **Cactus Jack** in WCW, he was again a rulebreaker. He briefly feuded with his former tag team partner, **Kevin Sullivan**, and viciously attacked Kevin's brother, **Dave**, when he tried to stop them from fighting.

Since dropping a loser-leaves-WCW match to Kevin in January, Cactus seems to have had another change of heart. In addition to competing in ECW, Jack is now among the most popular wrestlers in Smoky Mountain. He arrived in that promotion and immediately announced that he had found a "kindred spirit" in **Boo Bradley**, **Tammy Fytch's** newest protege. Jack is on a mission to rescue Bradley from Fytch and **Chris Candido**; he says Boo is being mistreated by those two, but Fytch says Jack has no business meddling in her affairs.



Cactus Jack

It's good to have Cactus Jack the fan favorite back—so good that we're ranking him as one of the 10 most popular men in wrestling today.

That's it for this month. What do you think of these new International ratings? If you have any suggestions about how we could improve them, or any comments regarding our ratings in general, please feel free to drop us a line. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

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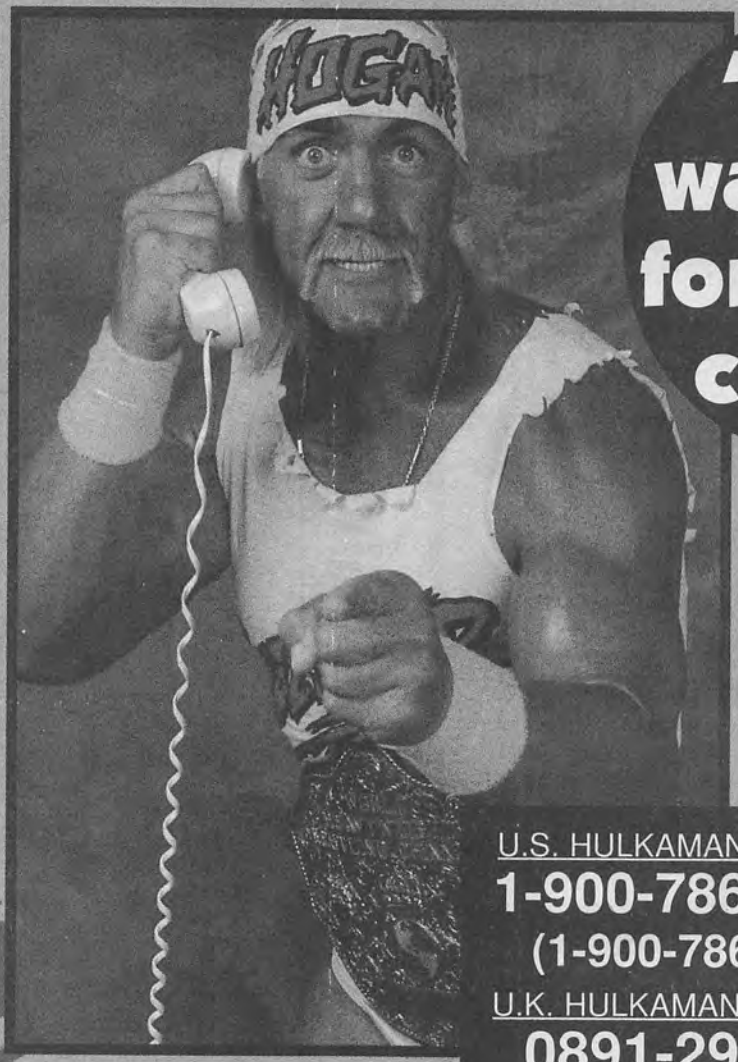

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VOLUME XV, No. 12

DECEMBER 1994

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

BACKLUND CHICKEN-WINGS ARNOLD SKAALAND!

Says He Hasn't Forgiven His Former Manager

By BILL APTER

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY—Eleven years of frustration came to a head for Bob Backlund when he finally confronted his former manager, Arnold Skaaland, the man he says cost him the WWF World title in 1983.

Skaaland came to the ring while the former champion was being interviewed by WWF head Vince McMahon at a TV taping and offered to shake hands with him. Backlund refused, saying he hadn't spoken to his former manager since December 26, 1983, the infamous night he lost the World title to The Iron Sheik when Skaaland threw in the towel for him.

Backlund says, that he still keeps that towel as a constant reminder of that horrible night.

When the interview was over, Backlund put Skaaland in the chicken wing and refused to release the hold until Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly stormed the ring and pried him off.

"I can't believe what has happened to Bobby," Skaaland said several weeks before the incident. "We used to work so well together. He was an honest, decent man, but now he's just snapped. He's alienating all the people he used to call friends."

It was Backlund's second attack on a non-wrestler in six weeks. In August, he demonstrated the chicken wing on diminutive WWF employee Lou Gianfriddo, but refused to release his victim until McMahon and several referees pulled him off.

Arnold Skaaland experienced the fury of his former protege Bob Backlund at a recent WWF TV taping. Backlund put Skaaland in his chicken wing and didn't release him until Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly intervened.

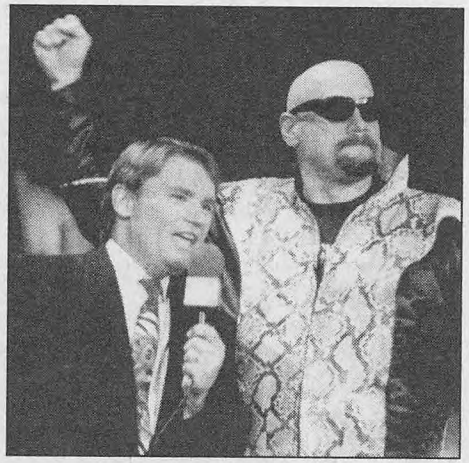
Ventura Out As WCW Broadcaster

By DAVE ROSENBAUM

ATLANTA—Even though he had five months left on his WCW contract, Jesse Ventura was officially dropped from all WCW broadcasts this fall.

"The Body" had been working as color commentator on the syndicated *WCW Worldwide* telecasts, but his role with the promotion decreased since Bobby Heenan joined WCW in January 1994. Ventura, who is also the mayor of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, made his last WCW pay-per-view appearance at Bash at the Beach in July. He had announced earlier that he wouldn't seek a second term as mayor and, despite his legal battles with the WWF, could conceivably return to the WWF, where he began his broadcasting career alongside Vince McMahon.

A federal jury awarded Ventura $809,958 in April after finding that TitanSports, the WWF's parent company, had defrauded him by telling him WWF wrestlers did not receive royalties on videos sold by the federation. Ventura had done color commentary on many of those videos.



Jesse Ventura won't be standing alongside WCW blow-by-blow man Tony Schiavone anymore. "The Body" was dropped from all of the federation's telecasts.

Liger Breaks Ankle, Vacates IWGP Junior Belt

By MATT BROCK

NAGOYA, JAPAN—Jushin Liger, one of the best aerial wrestlers in the world, broke his ankle in two places during a match against The Great Muta. The frightening incident took place less than one minute into the match. Liger leaped over Muta and landed on one leg, but the leg simply gave out.

Liger was carried from the ring on a stretcher and had surgery on the ankle on September 29. He was originally expected to be out of action for at least a year, but doctors changed their prognosis after performing the surgery, saying it was not career-threatening.

As a result, Liger was forced to vacate his IWGP junior heavyweight title; Norio Honaga then won the belt in a one-night tournament in Osaka, beating The Pegasus Kid in the finals.

"I plan to return," Liger said through an interpreter. "It will be a long road to recovery, but I look at it as just one more major challenge for me to face."

Gangstas Awarded SMW Tag Title

By EDDIE ELLNER

MORGANTON, NC—Thanks to a victory by their lawyer, The Gangstas are the new Smoky Mountain tag team champions. SMW officials announced that the belts had been awarded to New Jack and Mustafa Saed after the lawyer filed a protest concerning a controversial September 16 match between previous champs The Rock 'n' Roll Express and his clients.

The lawyer argued that The Gangstas had won the belts that night in Knoxville, Tennessee. Saed did pin Robert Gibson in the tag team match, but only after New Jack entered the ring illegally and smashed Gibson, then put Saed on top of him. The referee, who was trying to get Rick Morton out of the ring, turned around and made the three-count.

That match was restarted after Bob Armstrong told the official what happened; Morton eventually pinned Saed. The lawyer, however, challenged SMW to find footage of other bouts that were restarted under similar circumstances. The federation couldn't, and awarded the belts to the rulebreakers.

AROUND THE GLOBE

TOKYO, JAPAN

Does Chris Candido need Tammy Fytch to succeed? She does help him a lot in Smoky Mountain, but the young New Jersey native wrestled well during his tour of Japan. He competed mostly in tag team matches, with Johnny Smith as his partner, and observers in the Orient were reportedly very impressed by his skills.

CORNWALL, ONTARIO

The Quebecers won the WWF World tag team title three times, but a lot of fans still considered them a mediocre team at best. When Jacques and Pierre split up, few forecast success for Pierre as a solo wrestler. For the most part, they've been right, though the cocky Canadian did defeat Intercontinental champ Razor Ramon by countout at a card here at the Civic Complex.

OSAKA, JAPAN

After his brief stint in the WWF in early-1994, Earthquake hadn't been wrestling much anywhere. The former sumo star is now back in Japan, teaming with Big Van Vader in UWFI. Vader has called him one of the best partners he ever had. Perhaps Earthquake could help Vader with strategy against WCW World champ Hulk Hogan, whom he had a bitter feud with in the WWF in 1990.

HOT SHOT

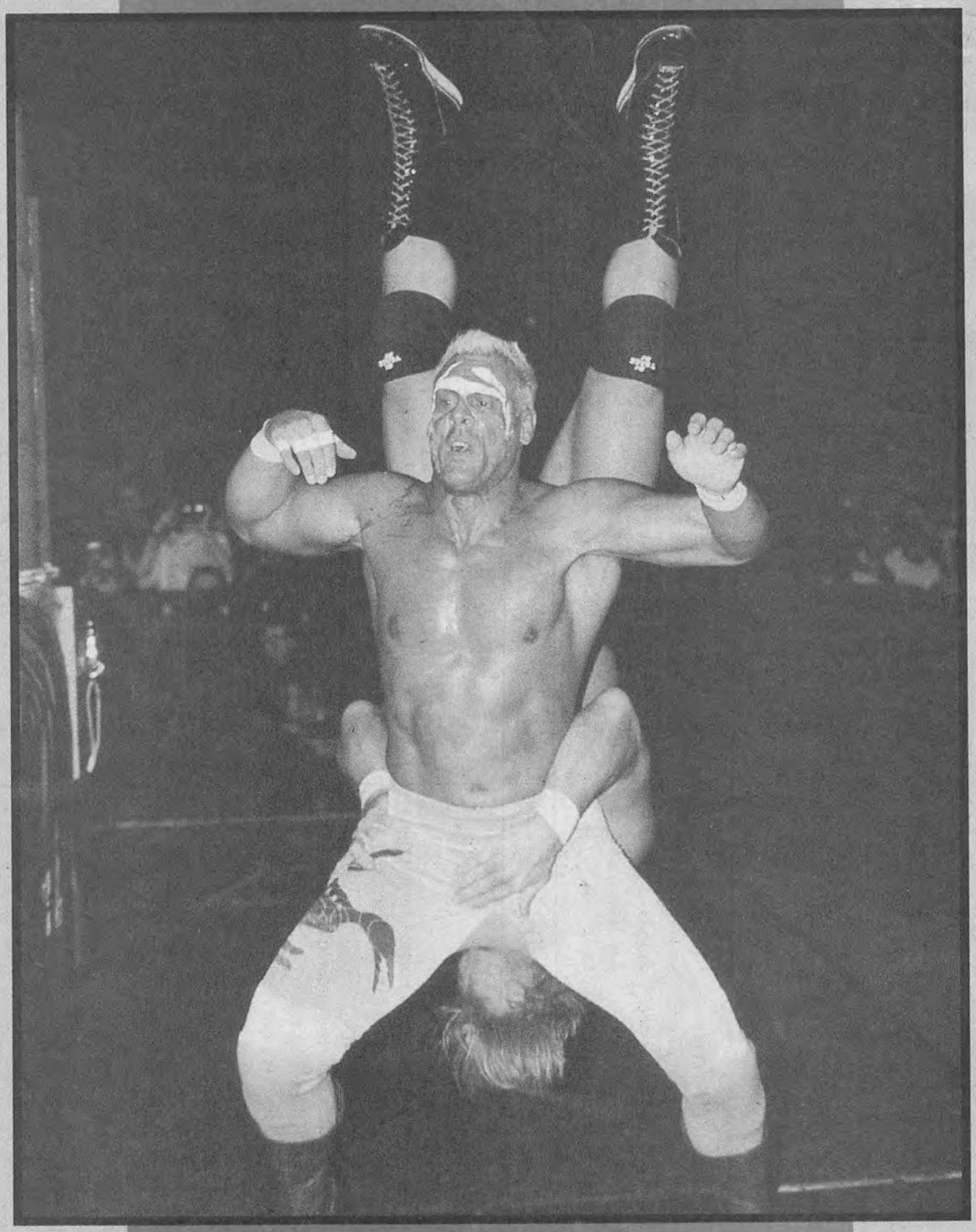


Photo by Colin Bowman

A "Stunning" move by the "Stinger!" Steve Austin thought he had Sting right where he wanted him when he tossed him out of the ring and onto the arena floor. He charged at him full-speed, but Sting was ready and sent him reeling with a spectacular back-body-drop. It had "Stunning" Steve's world turned upside-down!

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